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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Guam governor OKs using CNMI driver's license beyond 30 days

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI residents with qualified driver's license and are staying in Guam for an extended time may now be eligible to drive a car beyond the initial 30 days.

» Qualified CNMI residents' licenses would be valid in Guam for up to a year

In a letter addressed to Guam Sen. William Castro, Guam Revenue and Taxation director John P. Camacho said that he has secured the go-signal of Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo to waive the 30-day validity for CNMI residents that are holding qualified driver's licenses and extending the validity for up to one year—if that person is currently on the way to securing a Guam driver's license.

"The waiver shall be made for an initial six months and extended for another six months, provided that the driver has provided evidence that he or she is enrolled in a graduated driver's education program," said Camacho in the letter.

"The waiver shall only be effective

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Bogdan nomination garners support

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Bogdan

A fleet of supporters gathered at the Senate last week to pitch their support for Wesley M. Bogdan's nomination to fill the position of associate judge at the CNMI Superior Court.

The Senate Committee on Execu-

See BOGDAN on Page 4

J.T. Ada rules car show

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
J.T. Ada takes home the award for Best in Show at last Saturday's 3rd Summer Island Auto Fest.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The summer heat and limited capacity of the Marianas Business Plaza parking lot failed to douse the fervor of hundreds of car enthusiasts who descended on the site for the 3rd Annual Summer Island Auto Fest last Saturday.

The Best in Show award, which represents the overall festival winner, was presented to J.T. Ada for his 1994 Honda Civic.

The car show, which is fast becoming an annual rite of summer, showed off the personalized touches of many car enthusiasts who showed off their vehicles at the festival. They didn't

See CAR on Page 4

Prepositioned ships hold exercise

By GRADY FONTANA
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND FAR EAST

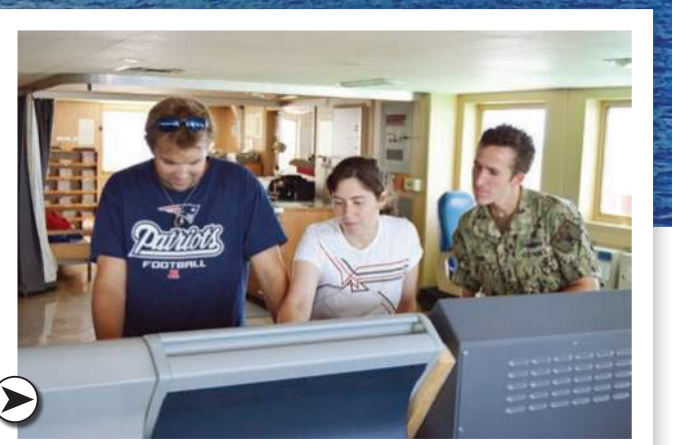
SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3 successfully conducted an underway multi-ship training exercise, Group Sail, on Aug. 2-3, off the coast of Saipan.

For the first time in 10 years MPSRON 3 conducted its largest successful multi-day Group Sail event with six preposition ships, the USNS *1st LT Jack Lummus*, USNS *2nd LT John P. Bobo*, USNS *GYSGT Fred W. Stockham*, USNS *Pililaau*, USNS *Red Cloud*, and USNS *Soderman*.

This demanding two-day exercise was used to train the ships in interoperability with other ships within the squadron, and used to prepare them to work with other U.S. Navy assets

See SHIPS on Page 4

Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3 ships transitions from a Form 1 to a Screen K formation during a Group Sail on Aug. 2-3, off the coast of Saipan. U.S. NAVY


Samuel J. Sherwood, left, chief mate onboard USNS *1st LT Jack Lummus*; Taylor Crisci, a cadet from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; and Lt. j.g. Alexander Mund, force protection officer, Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3, conduct training aboard USNS *Lummus* during a Group Sail on Aug. 2-3, off the coast of Saipan. U.S. NAVY

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Local

McDonald's donates $1.5K to families of 3 victims

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan has extended a helping hand to the families of the three Filipino workers who were killed after inhaling toxic gas while working on a sewer hole by donating $1,500 to their families.

"McDonald's is committed to helping the community in education and sports and, most importantly, in times of extending a hand to a family. What happened to the three [workers] was unfortunate. We empathize with the family that are affected and this is our way of assisting them," said Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., general manager of McDonald's Middle Road branch.

Marlon Regaton, president of the United Filipino Organization, which led a fund-raising drive for the families of the three victims, accepted the donation in behalf of the families.

McDonald's employees surround UFO president Marlon Regaton and McDonald's general manager Joe E. Ayuyu Jr. at the check donation by McDonald's to the families of the workers who perished in a sewer well last month.

"We would like to thank the Ayuyu family and McDonald's for their support on behalf of the families that the three men left behind in the Philippines. They are truly in dire need of this support," Regaton said.

"There are other benefits that they are expecting but, with all the paperwork, it's going to take awhile. Donations like this from McDonald's will help in a big way to augment their needs," he added.

The three workers—Ricky Quijano, Amid Tapon, and Danilo Paglinawan—were employed by USA Fanter, a private company contracted by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to perform rehabilitation work inside the sewer system. The three were killed last month due to toxic gas inhalation and drowning.

UFO initiated a fund drive for the families of the three men two weeks after their deaths.

"The aim was to coordinate with other organizations like the office of Philippine honorary consul Glicerio Arago, the Office of Bishop Ryan Jimenez and other member organizations like the Lion's Club so we can have the Filipino and local communities involved," Regaton said.

"We also reached out to the businesses and informed them of this fund drive. They helped us set up our donation boxes in their business locations like LBC, PNB Forex, KWOW FM, D'Elegance Café, LN Market, and APEX Remittance. We reached out to [others by] informing them through email and we set two Masses at

See MCDONALD'S on Page 4

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Tourism Topics
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
The Marianas
Saipan | Tinian | Rota
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Knowing Our Visitors

Let's find out more about our visitors, based on the Marianas Visitors Authority's latest visitor exit survey. Here's what a sampling of visitors shared with us before their departure from The Marianas:

Gender and Marital Status
Would you say more females or more males visit The Marianas? If you said females (53%), you are correct! This was especially true for the Japanese visitors, of which almost two thirds (61%) were females. Although most visitors were married overall (65%), half of Japanese visitors were single (53%), never married.

Education and Occupation
Eighty-three percent of visitors overall had at least a college education (70%) or higher (13%). However, educational attainment varied. Three out of ten (29%) of Japanese visitors had a high school diploma or less, compared to 10% of Korean visitors and 8% of Chinese visitors. A third (33%) of visitors were white collar office workers, followed by professional or technical occupations (15%).

Upcoming Events

- Marianas Music Festival
  Aug. 19, 2017
  Sandy Beach Homes beach
- International Festival of Cultures
  Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2017
  Garapan Fishing Base
- KONQER Saipan
  Sept. 9, 2017
  Governor Inos Peace Park
  www.konqersports.com
- Rota Coconut Festival
  Sept. 11-16, 2017

www.mymarianas.com

Community embraces IT&E concert

To commemorate the second anniversary of Typhoon Soudelor and, most importantly, to celebrate the resilience of the CNMI people, IT&E staged a free concert in Garapan last Aug. 4, coinciding with the Thursday Night Market.

The concert drew hundreds to the Garapan Fishing Base and highlighted local talents like Sensi Roots and other local performances including the Alana Ai Dance Group, Pacific Flower, Simiyan Marianas, Kontagious Mindz, Refaluwasch Warriors, and SMADS.

The John Dank Show, a visiting band from Guam, headlined the free concert.

Frankie McJohn, lead singer and guitarist for the John Dank Show, said, "We know that Soudelor was devastating for the island. Seeing pictures and stuff…we knew that a show like this was important. The people here have been hospitable. They've taken care of us since we arrived and we just want to give back by playing music for people and celebrating that you guys are back on your feet and that is a big thing for us."

IT&E director of product marketing Angela Rosario said the concert was intended to celebrate the resilience of the community.

"Two years ago, Typhoon Soudelor happened. [This concert intends to celebrate] the way we came together as a people, as a community and as an island, to build the community back up to where it needed to be. Two years after, we are doing great."

Typhoon Soudelor hit on island in August 2015 and is considered one of the most powerful typhoons ever to hit the CNMI.

Velma Palacios, IT&E's director of network operations, said, "Our people worked 24/7 to just ensure the services were up. Our generators were running and did not falter. We knew everybody needed and relied on communications during that period, whether to keep in touch and to keep entertained."

Rosario said, "We kept our stores open and we provided ways for people to come in and charge their cellphones. We gave away car chargers and we just wanted to make sure that people still continue to communicate, let their family and friends know that they are okay and update them on what the situation is on island."

"We were servicing everybody whether they were customers or not. Everyone was welcomed. They came in, we had tables set up so they would feel comfortable," Rosario added.

IT&E hopes to hold the concert annually, where people can get together, celebrate and enjoy their favorite bands.

"We are always happy to organize something like this for the community and hopefully we will have another one next year. We are here to celebrate with the people who helped, contributed and to give thanks to the community, to keep pushing and going, even after Soudelor. This is a first step for us," Rosario said.

Palacios was quick to say that communications will stay in place in the event a big storm like Soudelor will come again.

"IT&E is ready. We have gone through many storms but Soudelor was the biggest and the longest. With that, we added more backup power, generators and we continue to maintain our generators and make sure we have the needed spares, especially in case of typhoons. We want the community to know that whatever we did last time, we will work harder and for the better," Palacios assured. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

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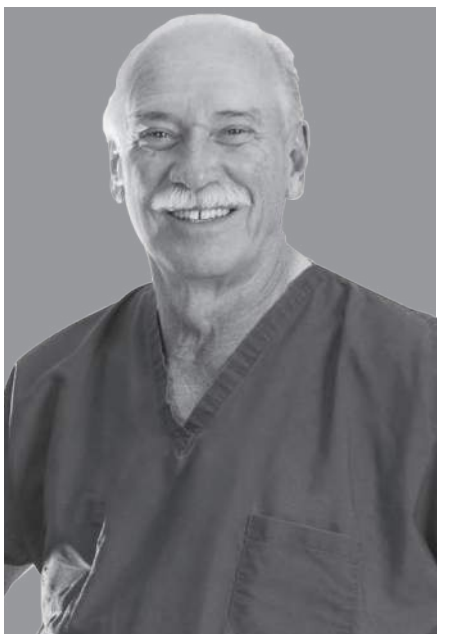

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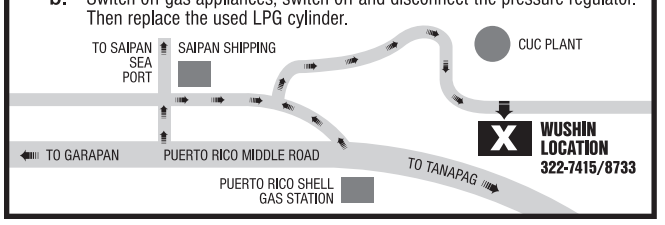

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For reservation please call Aqua Resort Club @ 322-1234 ext. 731 or 732
Please inquire also for group parties from 10 to 160 seats (Christening, Birthdays, Meetings or Seminars)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS new student orientation set

Saipan Southern High School will have a new student orientation today, Aug. 7, 2017, at 10am and 2pm at the school cafeteria. Parents of new students attending Saipan Southern High School can attend either session (10am or 2pm). ***(PR)***

Kagman Elementary orientations set

Kagman Elementary School will be having a parent/student orientation for school year 2017-2018 on the following dates:

■ Monday, Aug. 14, at 9am for all Kindergarten to 2nd Grade students

■ Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 9am for all 3rd to 5th Grade students

In addition, the first day of instruction will be on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 7:40am. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7am.

Guam base to test Giant Voice System today

SANTA RITA, Guam— U.S. Naval Base Guam will conduct routine testing of the vital communication and advance warning system, "Giant Voice," today, Aug. 7, starting at 3pm. Residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers should only hear short verbal tests of the system, including warning tones. This is a monthly test that typically falls on the first Monday of each month. ***(PR)***

Free Veterans Choice workshops this week

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is hosting next week a series of Veterans Choice workshops that are open to veterans, their families, and members of the public who would like to learn more about veterans' options for healthcare through the Veterans Administration's Choice program.

The workshops are scheduled as follows:

■ Rota: Aug. 8, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, NMC instructional site, Room A-1

■ Tinian: Aug. 9, 2017, from 9:30am to 11:30am, Tinian Public Library

■ Saipan: Aug. 10, 2017, from 5pm to 7pm, Pedro T. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and TriWest (the VA's third-party administrator for the Choice program) will be present to share information and answer questions. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Aug. 10

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Becky Robles, NCDB director, and her presentation will on NCD Bureau Services. Joining her will be Nikki Sablan, PROA program coordinator and Joyce Songsong, breast and cervical program coordinator. ***(PR)***

CAR

From Page 1

just showcase their cars; they showcased their talents and their passions.

According to organizer James Fleming, the car show was inspired by his love for cars.

Fleming and his wife, Carol Fleming, started the island auto fest to create an environment for car enthusiasts, like themselves, to meet with other individuals who share the same enthusiasm.

The night was filled with varied competitions: the sound off competition, flex competition, sound system competition, and more.

It even allowed car dealers like Triple J Motors, Joeten Motors, and Atkins Kroll to showcase the brands they carry and got to talk with individuals about the significance of their brands.

From automotive classics to the latest car models, the auto festival also exhibited muscle cars, SUVs, sedans, motorbikes, trucks, and more. Many of the cars that were entered in the auto festival were personally modified and customized by their owners.

Roman Tudela, whose car won second place in the truck category, told *Saipan Tribune* that his vehicle is unique because it combines the best of both the Toyota and the Dodge Dakota.

Tudela calls his truck a "Toyota Dakota." He swapped the internal parts of his vehicle with Toyota parts but left the exterior like the original Dodge Dakota.

Tudela was so proud of his work he felt he had to showcase his truck and his customizations. This is his first year to enter the auto festival.

"I really wanted to bring this out and showcase it over here is so that Saipan can see something different and something they haven't seen in a while," said Tudela.

Numerous awards were handed out in different categories and places. There were winners for the SUV category, 4x4 category, truck category, café bike category, cruiser bike category, scooter/moped category, four-door category, two-door category, sound off category, and the four main awards, which were the Triple J award, Joeten Motors award, Atkins Kroll award, and the Best of Show award.

In the 4x4 category, first place was awarded to Sean Ficke's 2016 Toyota Tacoma. Second place was awarded to J.J. Cabrera's 2016 Toyota Tacoma. Third place went to Christopher Deleon Guerrero's 2017 Toyota Tacoma.

In the trucks category, first place was awarded to Abe Barce's 1991 Toyota Pickup. Second place went to Tudela. Third place was awarded to Ellery Cruz's 1995 Toyota Tacoma.

In the café bikes category, first place was awarded to Fal Arriola's 2009 Yamaha YZFR1, while second place went to Joseph Ocampo's 2003 Honda CBR, and third place was awarded to Ramil Elistaquio's 2007 Yamaha R6.

In the cruiser bike category, first place was awarded to Bizzo Borja's 2016 Harley Davidson V-Rod, second place went to Franchesco Ulloa's 2016 Harley Davidson Sportster, and third place was awarded to Juan Blas' 1975 Honda CB750.

In the scooter/moped category, awards were given to Mia and Melia Fleming for their 2009 and 2008 Honda Ruckus.

In the four-door category, first place was awarded to Jeffrey Riman's 2007 Honda Civic. Second place went to Derek Reyes' 2017 Mitsubishi Lancer, and third place was awarded to Edwin Takai's 2017 Honda Civic.

In the two-door category, first place was awarded to J.T. Ada's 1994 Honda Civic, second place went to Reyel Quezon's 2013 Honda Civic Si, and third place was awarded to Jeffrey Riman's 1996 Honda civic Hatchback.

In the soundoff competition, first place was awarded to Jerry J., second place was awarded to Abe Barce, and third place was given to Antonio Muna.

The Triple J award was given to Sean Ficke's 1993 Mazada Rx-7, the Joeten Motors award was given to J.T. Ada's 1994 Honda Civic, and the Atkins Kroll award was given to Sean Ficke's 2016 Toyota Tacoma TRD.

BOGDAN

From Page 1

tive Appointments and Government Investigations held a public hearing last week to review the qualifications of Bogdan to serve as a Superior Court judge, a position that has been vacant for over a year since former judge David Wiseman's retirement in May 2016.

Bogdan is currently legal counsel of the Office of the Governor.

The expressions of support for Bogdan's nomination came from multiple entities, including CNMI Bar Association president Charles Brasington, Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, interim press secretary Kevin Bautista, press officer L.J. Castro, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority special assistant for public transportation Alfreda Camacho, Reps. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) and Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and a statement by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, as read by his chief of staff, Matt Deleon Guerrero.

Bogdan's nomination was also supported by other private lawyers, including Michael White, David Baines, Mark Scoggins, Matthew Holly, Joseph Horey, Steve Pixley, and more.

The Senate committee members that attended the hearing were Teresita Santos (R-Rota), Steve Mesngon (R-Rota), vice chair Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan), and chair Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian). Sens. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) and Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) were absent.

The senators, especially Quitugua and Cruz, questioned Bogdan about the CNMI Constitution and his opinions about ongoing litigations. Except for questions pertaining to ongoing litigations, Bogdan answered each one. The committee explained that their questions were only intended to give them an inkling of what Bogdan could possibly face in the future if his nomination is approved.

In a later interview, Bogdan explained why he declined to respond to questions about ongoing litigation. "Those questions are being litigated right now, so a candidate for a judicial position should not be prejudging those issues before they take the bench and actually come up to the courtroom," he said.

Bogdan said he was honored by the support he got.

"I am incredibly humbled by the number of people that came and supported me. I am still overwhelmed and quite honored," he said.

When asked if he is ready to be a judge, he replied, "Sure."

The committee would now come up with a Senate Committee Report to introduce to the Senate during a Senate session indicating to approve or disapprove the nomination.

GUAM

From Page 1

upon the presentation of a valid unexpired CNMI driver's license, the signing of an affidavit of having held a valid CNMI driver's license for at least two years, and upon issuance of a certificate of waiver signed by the director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation."

That waiver expires on Dec. 31, 2017, or until Guam Bill 123-34—the CNMI-Guam reciprocity agreement that allows CNMI residents to drive on Guam highways using a valid CNMI drivers license—becomes law.

A bill that mirrors the intent to establish a Guam-CNMI driver's license agreement that allows Guam residents holding valid Guam driver's licenses to drive on CNMI highways, or House Bill 20-91, was introduced to the House on June 27, 2017 and is authored by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan).

Both Guam Bill 123-34 and HB 20-91 have obtained the support of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"While we look forward to the passage of Senator Castro's bill and our reciprocity bill at the House, I am extremely pleased to have learned that Governor Calvo has taken the first step, in good faith, to issue a waiver of reprieve for our CNMI residents," said Torres.

"I cannot say thank you enough to Governor Calvo, his administration, Speaker Benjamin J.F Cruz, and members of the Guam Legislature," he added.

Blanco, who was also appreciative of Calvo's gesture, said the Guam legislation is great for CNMI residents "who continue to hold together [Guam and CNMI] familial and historic bonds."

SHIPS

From Page 1

and escorts.

During the exercise the MPSRON ships executed close quarter turns, torpedo evasions tactics and formation steaming; they also used time to practice night time signal communications as well as working with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 for night time deck landing qualifications.

While the purpose of this exercise was to prepare the squadron in tactical movement, it was also used as valuable training time for military staff of the squadron, who took the opportunity to improve their skills in command and control of multiple ships.

"This was the most exciting day that I have had yet, and I am grateful for the chance to learn something new and to be able to take part in this," said Taylor Crisci a cadet from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy who is onboard the USNS *Lummus*.

Under the command of Navy Capt. Eric Lindfors, MPSRON 3 operates in the western Pacific, maintaining tactical control of the 13 ships carrying afloat prepositioned U.S. military cargo for the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Army, and the U.S. Air Force. The squadron's mission is to enable force from the sea by providing swift and effective transportation of vital equipment and supplies for designated operations. MPSRON 3 is part of Military Sealift Command.

"I am very pleased with how this event was executed. My staff worked very hard with all involved to ensure a crawl, walk, run phasing and the efforts in planning have shown themselves in the results," said Lindfors. "The success was only possible with the inputs we received from the ships' masters as we were operating with four different classes of ships all about the size of an aircraft carrier. I look forward to the next event and increasing the complexity so that we are better ready to support any call received."

MSC operates approximately 120 non-combatant, civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, conduct specialized missions, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move military cargo and supplies used by U.S. forces and coalition partners.

MCDONALD'S

From Page 2

Mount Carmel Church and Kristo Rai," Regaton added.

Initially, the UFO was able to send a total of $1,353 for each of the families to help with the funeral and burial costs.

"Check endorsements from the men to their families have stopped. So we thought the money we sent to them initially will help with their daily needs and when the bodies reach their homes," Regaton said.

The fund drive ended last July 31, 2017. The total collection from the donation boxes reached $6,696, giving an additional $2,232 for each of the families.

"UFO as facilitator of the fund drive is very thankful for the support of the Saipan community. The families of the three men were humbled with the community's help and assistance. We know they are going through a tough time. They are staying strong and with the donations coming from Saipan, they are full of gratitude," Regaton said.

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2017 NISSAN FRONTIER retail price $26,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $351.82 or $162.33 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $25,323.84.
2017 NISSAN TITAN retail price TBA.

Guam high school students to learn more about decolonization

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Education leaders in Guam have their sights set doing a better job teaching high school juniors and seniors about the concept of decolonization and what it would mean for the U.S. territory.

Officials met on Thursday to determine what decolonization topics should be integrated into the Department of Education's curriculum, the *Guam Pacific Daily* News reported. The program will be geared toward older high school students so they can be better informed to decide on a plebiscite vote for Guam's political status.

Guam currently is under the control of the U.S. Congress. The plebiscite could help Guam residents decide how they want to govern themselves.

Some of the suggested topics within the program are the territory's perspective of its history of decolonization, understanding the United Nations charter, differences between U.S. laws and U.N. laws, and the U.S.'s role as a colonizer of Guam.

Amanda Blas, executive director of the Commission on Decolonization, said she will take these suggestions to the Department of Education's deputy superintendent for review.

A subcommittee of the commission is spearheading the program. The subcommittee sees the third and fourth quarters of the upcoming school year as the earliest opportunity to implement the curriculum. It plans to recommend a two-year education campaign to the commission.

A date for the plebiscite vote has not been scheduled. Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson had filed a notice to appeal a ruling on a federal lawsuit challenging the voting process, which is limited to native inhabitants as defined by law.

$4500 DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Ice & Water president and chief executive officer Milagros Pellegrino, second from right, hands a $4,500 check to Northern Marianas Trades Institute's external relations director Victor Cepeda. NMTI was founded by the late Anthony Pellegrino in 2008 "because Tony has always believed in investing in our local workforce. We will continue to help the school as long as we can." The donation goes to upgrades for NMTI's classroom for Hotel and Restaurant Operations, and other areas.

NEW NURSES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Last week the Senate passed a resolution, introduced by Sen. Justo Quitugua, to congratulate and recognize Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Lovely Lopez, Gemmilie Eugenio, and Mika Sablan for passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, NCLEX-RN. They are among other NMC graduates who have recently passed the NCLEX-RN, which is the exam nursing graduates in the CNMI have to pass in order to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are equipped with the capability to apply entry level nursing practices correctly. From left, NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services Barbara Merfalen; NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez; NMC nursing graduates Lovely Lopez, Gemmilie Eugenio, and Mika Sablan; NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Tudela; and NMC instructor Johnny Aldan.

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Location:

- Saipan Aviation Depot, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

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- Supervises and requests authorization to perform facility or equipment maintenance and repair to improve operations' safety and efficiency in the most economical manner.
- Oversees all aspects of aviation products, assets and materials and ensures that they are used in a safe and efficient manner.
- Responsible for personnel adherence to required levels of performance on assigned duties during the shift. Recommends actions on equipment maintenance and repairs to the Aviation Depot Superintendent.
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- Supervisory experience in safe petroleum handling, storage and movement or related field
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Northern Marianas Humanities Council

Navigating the Human Experience

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Program Officer
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Program Officer.

The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited post-secondary institution. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday 1 September 2017. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Rota gearing up for coconut Festival on Sept. 11-16

Rota, renowned among the islands of the Marianas for its untouched beauty and warm hospitality, is gearing up to welcome visitors for the weeklong Coconut Festival on Sept. 11-16, 2017.

Festivities for the weeklong celebration kick off with a proclamation signing on Sept. 11 at 9am by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig at the Office of the Mayor.

Residents and visitors will have the opportunity to contribute to the beauty of the island by planting coconut seedlings on Sept. 12, true to the festival theme, I Niyok Para Hagu Yan Guahu (Coconut for You and Me).

On Sept. 13, government workers and others will show their festival spirit with attire or accessories made from various parts of the coconut tree.

The best Chamorro huts will be judged on Sept. 14 at Joaquin Ogo "Tun Kindo" Baseball Field in Songsong Village, where the first evening of the night market from 6pm to 10pm will feature various food vendors and live entertainment.

The night market will continue on Friday and Saturday evenings at the same time.

"Coconut Festival is a great event to promote and share with our people of the benefits and importance of the coconut, as well as the need to continue to protect it," said Atalig. "We want to invite visitors and friends from our neighboring islands to witness and join us in our efforts to help in preserving our cultural heritage and resources."

Sept. 15 will bring a full-day focus on the various uses and benefits of the coconut tree beginning at 9am, including its history, a display of various sizes and colors of coconut, a detailed description of tree parts, threats to the species, models of huts constructed with coconut, value-added products, a display of clothing and accessories, medicinal uses, and samples of carvings and weavings.

Special highlights will include coconut oil production, coconut frond weaving, coconut husking and grating, ayuyu (coconut crab) hunting display, furniture-making, and manha (young coconut meat) titiyas, coconut candy, and coconut juice sampling,

The final day of the Coconut Festival on Sept. 16 will open with a fashion show, followed by open competitions in coconut husking and grinding. Festival-goers will have a chance to cheer for their favorite entry in the Ayuyu Race. Saturday will also tantalize the taste buds with cooking competitions for the following dishes: manha titiyas, manha pie, apigigi (roasted young coconut), doughnuts, coconut candy, ahu (sweet, young coconut soup), miso ayuyu, soup, and other dishes.

"We're pleased to again be partnering with the Rota Mayor's Office for another great event highlighting the best of Rota, its natural beauty, and friendly community," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

The weekend event is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office with support from Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, MVA, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Public Works, Rota Municipal Council, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services.

For more information, contact special assistant for programs and grants Aubry Hocog of the Rota Mayor's Office at 532-9451 or aubryhocog@gmail.com or Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 532-0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

DIAMOND SPONSOR

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has donated $15,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation as a diamond sponsor of the 2017 Make-A-Wish Gala on Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Tumon. This year's gala co-chairs are Make-A-Wish Foundation board members Joaquin P.L.G Cook from Bank of Guam; Jesika Taitano from First Hawaiian Bank; and James Santos from DFS/T Galleria. From left, Joaquin P.L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam executive vice president/chief sales and service officer and Make-A-Wish Foundation board member; Eric Tydingco, Make-A-Wish Foundation president and chief executive officer for Guam and the CNMI; and Jackie A. Marati, Bank of Guam senior vice president/chief communications officer and former Make-A-Wish Foundation board member.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Apple iPhone 6s 64GB UNLOCKED	$500
Apple iPhone 6s 16GB UNLOCKED	$450
Apple iPhone 6 plus 128GB UNLOCKED	$500
Apple iPhone 6 Plus 64GB UNLOCKED	$450
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Apple iPhone 6 128GB UNLOCKED	$450
Apple iPhone 6 64GB UNLOCKED	$400
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LAUNCHING THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

MCS to offer new AP computer course

This past summer, the college board approved a new AP [advanced placement] course at Mount Carmel School in computer science principles.

The course is not only one of the newest courses overseen by the college board, but is also the first of its kind in the region, with Mount Carmel School being the only school in the Marianas currently authorized to offer it this coming school year.

Developed with support from the National Science Foundation, AP CSP introduces students to the foundational concepts of the field and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world.

According to the college board, "Whether it's 3-D animation, engineering, music, app development, medicine, visual design, robotics, or political analysis, computer science is the engine that powers the technology, productivity, and innovation that drive the world.

"Computer science experience has become an imperative for today's students and the workforce of tomorrow," the college board added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's 2017 Teacher of the Year and AP computer science principles teacher Filmah Buenaflor, left, collaborates with another CSP teacher, Karen Envoy, in developing an Android app at the Mobile CSP Immersion Week held this past summer in Duluth, Minnesota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's 2017 Teacher of the Year and AP computer science principles teacher Filmah Buenaflor shares an Android app that she developed at the Mobile CSP Immersion Week held this past summer in Duluth, Minnesota.

The college board also noted that the launch of the course was the largest course launch in AP's 60-year history.

To adequately prepare for the course, Mount Carmel School worked with the CNMI Public School System's Federal Programs Office to enroll its 2017 Teacher of the Year, Filmah Buenaflor, in Mobile CSP, one of the nation's leading programs in curriculum design and instructional methods for teaching the course.

Endorsed by the college board and open only to a few select instructor from across the nation, the program ran for four weeks this past summer and included a weeklong immersion program in Duluth, Minnesota.

"The training was so intensive and rigorous because we needed to cover the whole curriculum," said Buenaflor after returning from the immersion program. On the very first day of the immersion week, Buenaflor co-taught with a teacher from Wisconsin a demonstration lesson on basic internet architecture and packet teaching using the Mobile CSP curriculum, all under the observation of master teachers from across the country. While the experience was challenging, Buenaflor and her co-teacher received high marks from the observing master teachers, who noted that they set the bar high for other teachers to follow.

"I learned a lot from the immersion," said Buenaflor as she reflected on the experience. "I met 36 different teachers coming from different states and from different places in Puerto Rico, and I saw their teaching styles and strategies in delivering lessons."

Looking forward, Bueanflor hopes that students will become more than passive users of computer science. "They can do more than just play games and use apps; they can create their own."

High school students can sign up for Mount Carmel School's AP CSP course during the school's scheduling fair, which will be held on opening day of school, Thursday, Aug. 10. For more information about the course or enrolling at the school, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BOARD OF PAROLE

P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lt. governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that an **Executive Board Meeting** is scheduled for **August 10, 2017 Thursday,** at **1:00 p.m.,** at the **Honorable Vicente T. Seman Building, Department of Corrections Conference Room, Susupe Saipan MP 96950.** The following items are included in the agenda:

Board of Parole Executive Meeting Agenda

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
- A. Adoption of Agenda
- B. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
  - a. Parole Hearing Mins – June 16, 2017
  - b. Executive Meeting Mins – June 16, 2017

III. New Business
- A. Designation of Chief Parole Officer

IV. Miscellaneous
- A. None

V. Adjournment

If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho, Chairman, Board of Parole — August 1, 2017, Date

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman, Administrator — Janice E. Castro, Acting Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed Saipan Globe Hotel project in San Roque, Saipan. The Saipan Globe International Group, Ltd., (SGIG) is proposing to construct and operate a resort complex to include a hotel tower with 438 rooms, 98 villas, 60 employee dorms, 5 restaurants, 3,800 square feet of retail space, 14,500 square feet of event space, swimming pool, parking and support services. The proposed resort complex is located on the west side of Route 30 in San Roque, specifically on Lot Numbers 001 B 42, 008 B 16, 22, 23, 24, 48, and 50, between Aqua Resort Club and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. Total area for all seven Lots is approximately 40,987 m² or 10.128 acres.

The public hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, August 17, 2017, at 5:00 PM at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria in San Roque, Saipan.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Saipan Globe Hotel project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Acting Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will hold a Public Hearing on

DATE	TIME	ISLAND	VENUE
AUGUST 10, 2017	5:30-6:30 PM	TINIAN	TINIAN YOUTH CENTER
AUGUST 17, 2017	5:30-6:30 PM	ROTA	ROTA YOUTH CENTER

The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on the 2018 LIHEAP State Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to implement the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for eligible households in the CNMI.

Copies of the LIHEAP State Plan will be available for public inspection beginning Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at the DCCA-LIHEAP office located in Capitol Hill, Asuncion Road, Building #1339 and on the web at **dcca.gov.mp.** Persons wishing to schedule testimony or receive a copy of the LIHEAP State Plan should contact DCCA-LIHEAP at 664-2574 or 664-2587.

Public comments are due by Thursday, August 24, 2017. You may submit your comments via fax, mail, email, or drop-off at the LIHEAP Office.

Mailing Address: Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Contact #: DCCA-LIHEAP 664-2574/2578 • FAX: 664-2570
DCCA Secretary's Office 664-2577/2587/2588

Email Address: Remedio Pangelinan, LIHEAP Acting Supervisor (rp.dcca@gmail.com)
Robert Hunter, DCCA Secretary (roberthhunter@gmail.com)

Jennifer P. Villanueva
P.O. Box 1263
Saipan, MP 96950

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: JOHN EMAN C. TUQUERO JOVIC C. TUQUERO Minor Child	] FCD GU]CIVIL ACTION] 17-0311]] NOTICE OF] HEARING]]
By: JENNIFER P. VILLANUEVA Petitioners	]]]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 8/17/2017 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 24th day of July 2017.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Festival of Cultures to feature games

Festivalgoers of all ages enjoy the Japanese game "kendama" at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016, on Saipan. The festival will feature more ethnic games when it returns every Saturday in September from 5pm to 9pm at Garapan Fishing Base, in addition to hands-on demonstrations, live performances, arts and crafts sales, ethnic cuisine, and more. MVA

The 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures returns every Saturday evenings on Saipan beginning on Sept. 2, 2017, with a new emphasis this year on ethnic games.

In addition to ethnic food, dances, attires, and crafts, the organizing committee for this year's festival has decided to give festival goers the chance to experience how different cultures play.

"The festival just gets better each year, and adding games this year is another great idea from our organizing committee," said MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas. "It will be an interesting way for visitors and residents of all ages to learn about and enjoy the various cultures we have living here in the Marianas."

Other activities anticipated to be included area traditional attire fashion show, coconut husking and grinding, and more.

The festival, which will be held at Garapan Fishing Base this year, celebrates the cultural diversity of the Marianas, with special emphasis on the indigenous cultures of Micronesia.

Slated to participate are the communities of Korea, China, Japan, Chamorro, Carolinian, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Palau, Bangladesh, and the Philippines.

Representative groups may contact MVA community projects coordinator Janerlinse Seman Sablan at jsablan@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3210 for more information.

This year's festival will also feature a new time of 5pm to 9pm, and admission is free. ***(MVA)***

Mount Carmel School
SY 17-18 Opening Schedule

Thursday, August 10
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL*
7:30 am: Homeroom
9:00–10:00: Opening Mass
10:30–3:00: Student Orientation
High School
Scheduling Fair
11:30 am: K4 Dismissal
3:00 pm: K5-12 Dismissal
**Note that parking for all employees and student drivers is located to the south side of the gymnasium.*

Friday, August 11
Regular Classes

Wednesday, August 16
Parent Orientation/Open House
5:00—7:00 pm

Slots still open in a few grade levels. Reserve your slot and register today!

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For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com.

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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Crisis in Venezuela needs a rapid response

Venezuela's descent into dictatorship accelerated this week with a bogus vote to create a Constituent Assembly that would be tasked with rewriting the country's constitution. This comes on top of other assaults on democratic institutions like the judiciary and the news media, as Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro cements his ruinous rule.

While efforts to resist and reverse the repressive regime have not and will not be easy, Venezuelan citizens and Western Hemisphere governments, including and especially the United States, need to keep up the pressure.

The July 30 vote to pack the new body with regime loyalists was boycotted by the opposition, and there are allegations that even the preordained outcome was tainted by fraud. "The real reason the Constituent Assembly was convened is to take away any remaining power that exists in a democracy," Jason Marczak, a director at the Atlantic Council's Latin American Center, told an editorial writer. "The democratic checks that exist in the country will most likely be erased ... so we're headed into a really extremely volatile situation."

That situation has been building since the despotic drift under Hugo Chavez, Maduro's presidential predecessor, who died in 2013. Maduro lacks Chavez's charisma but also did not inherit his era of high oil prices, which at least temporarily paid for the socialist government's reckless disregard for market forces. Now, despite having among the world's largest oil reserves, Venezuela is on pace to be among the poorest countries in the hemisphere.

The repression intensified on Tuesday, when two prominent opposition mayors were hustled from house arrest to detention. But outside pressure has ratcheted up, too, including the imposition of new U.S. sanctions on key government officials, including Maduro himself.

"The Venezuelan government's push for total control—despite evidence of a vast majority of people who are opposed to the government, despite the terrible economic conditions and scarcities which are being suffered—means that some international response is essential," Ivan Briscoe, program director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the International Crisis Group, told an editorial writer. Briscoe added that despite the worthy objective, any additional sanctions must not exacerbate citizens' misery but must be targeted at regime figures.

That's true, but clearly more must be done to save Venezuela and the region from Maduro's chaotic and cruel rule.

(c)2017 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

A grand bargain with China would damage US power

By MICHAEL AUSLIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

With North Korea's latest test of an intercontinental ballistic missile, one apparently capable of reaching California, the American foreign policy community is struggling to find a way—short of war—to end the threat from Pyongyang. In the media and behind closed doors, some are suggesting that the U.S. should approach China for a grand bargain.

The idea is deceptively simple: China would intervene in North Korea, most likely by removing Kim Jong Un from power and installing a puppet in his place. In return, the U.S. would withdraw or significantly reduce our forces in South Korea and potentially forces farther afield in Asia.

This may sound like an effective, realpolitik means of breaking a decades-long stalemate. After all, American presidents have been saying for years that China is the key to solving the North Korea puzzle. Such a pact would force Beijing into taking action rather than offering platitudes. It would also end the charade of American sanctions, which are regularly watered down or undercut by China and Russia. Most of all, it would rid the world of Kim—a brutal, dangerous despot—and end his family's absolute rule.

But in reality, a grand bargain with China is likely to destroy America's global influence, making it impossible for Washington to maintain stability in strategic areas, particularly in Asia and Europe. Indeed, merely proposing an agreement of this sort would make the U.S. into a paper tiger and compromise American credibility in Asia and around the world.

A grand bargain would effectively transfer America's dominance to China. No matter how the White House spun such a deal, world leaders would infer that the U.S. had gone hat in hand to China. Recognizing China as the true foreign power on the peninsula, South Korea and other Asian nations would tilt inevitably toward Beijing. It's also possible that South Korea and Japan, among other countries, would decide that they had no choice but to develop nuclear weapons for their own national defense.

Moreover, having seen the U.S. kowtow, Beijing would likely take a more assertive posture in the South China Sea and push Washington further, demanding a more comprehensive drawdown of American military forces from East Asia. Even if Washington refused to buckle, Sino-U.S. relations would enter a period of heightened tension and antagonism, undoubtedly encouraging both Moscow and Tehran to double down on their destabilizing behavior.

In short, a bargain would spell serial diplomatic failure for the U.S. As frustrating as it may seem, our long-standing strategy of containment and deterrence toward North Korea remains our best hope. This strategy will test our patience, but there are a few policies the White House can adopt to make its position more credible.

First, Washington ought to acknowledge openly that North Korea is a country with weapons of mass destruction that can strike not just other Asian countries, but also the continental United States. Washington also needs to end the fantasy of North Korean denuclearization, which, short of all-out war, will never happen. That will at least free up American diplomats from endless, meaningless negotiations. It is better to be feared by Pyongyang than held in contempt for our willingness to believe that it might one day give up its nuclear program.

Second, the U.S. should announce an assured destruction policy in response to any use of nuclear weapons by the North. If Pyongyang has no intention of using its weapons, then we have little to worry about. But if Kim is tempted to do so, our threat may give him pause, or create rifts within the elite that could result in Kim being neutered. This move would also outflank any attempts at nuclear blackmail by Kim, since Washington would make clear that the use of nuclear weapons would result in the complete destruction of his regime.

Finally, the Trump administration would be wise to commit to a comprehensive missile defense program in order to defend against North Korea's relatively limited, though lethal, ICBM capability. The cost of exploring all possible means of missile defense, including air-based and space-based directed-energy weapons, is a small investment next to the potential of a catastrophic war.

Acknowledging our diplomatic failures and taking these steps would increase our chances of containing North Korea. The alternative—a misguided and rushed grand bargain with China—would do little to end Pyongyang's threat, and almost certainly would spell the end of American global primacy, leaving the world a far more uncertain and unstable place.

Michael Auslin is a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and the author of The End of the Asian Century. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

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How I handle reader nastygrams

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? *and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.*

How do other people do it? How do other people deal with the etiquette of hate?

Even as a kid, I've always seen the world as one big potential pen pal. I try to answer letters and emails from readers as swiftly as possible. So grateful am I for a response to my column, I reply even to those written with toothpicks and nail polish (I'm hoping it was nail polish; it was deep red).

Most days, I answer the angriest and most scathing notes immediately. I'm driven neither by virtue nor by discipline. I simply want to get the vitriol out of my head because some of the language my correspondents use makes Anthony Scaramucci sound like Captain Kangaroo.

Despite coming from a background strikingly similar to that of our short-lived White House communications director—meaning that I am fluent in profanity—I nevertheless try to answer messages from Enraged Readers with as much grace and honesty as possible.

I'm no lady, but I try to write like one when the occasion demands.

What tickles me pink is when Enraged Readers suddenly become Reasonable Adults, which is what often happens once folks realize there's an actual human being behind the column. Even the most passionate antagonists immediately withdraw their fangs (you can hear the clicking noise) and make cogent arguments in meaningful, respectful and compelling ways.

Although their opinions on whatever topic is under discussion—women's rights, health care benefits, why major universities still need to have brick-and-mortar libraries and not only hot tubs—will not have changed, their demeanor will have shifted.

The change in tone makes my day.

Their replies back to me usually begin with "I never expected to hear from you," followed by an apology for rough language. As my student Julia put it (because Julia is getting a good education at a university with a library), "They're a little bit like Nietzsche, thinking that they're simply shouting into the abyss without ever thinking that the abyss might not only shout back, but even more weirdly, reply immediately and cheerfully."

Very few people have ramped up the rage. Quite the opposite: Several exchanges that began on a harsh note have become, if not harmonious, then at least entertaining. Very often they're illuminating. I've come to enjoy these debates.

But what do you do when you get a note from somebody you've never met, or somebody you knew 35 years ago, or a friend of a friend who more or less demands a favor—and then despises you if you dare to decline? That's a different kind of hate. If I don't answer in the enthusiastic affirmative, I get replies that make me want to purchase Kevlar vests in a variety of charming colors.

Julia says that she stopped accepting every social media invitation to be "friends" in seventh grade and that I also need to be more discerning.

I did learn one lesson: I no longer let the whole world post stuff on my Facebook page. One actual friend explained that "your Facebook page is like your fridge door: You're the only one who gets to decide what stays up there."

Her analogy gave me the permission I needed to remove comments that are off-topic, annoying or belligerent. If, after repeated warnings, somebody doesn't get the hint, I put them on the list of those who are unwelcome in my virtual kitchen.

I did this last week, only to have one guy fume that I was assaulting his right to free speech by refusing to allow him to call me an idiot on my own Facebook page. I suggested that, as a personal favor, he read the Constitution to grasp more fully the First Amendment.

Let's see if he writes back.

Kelly to the rescue?

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

It has recently seemed to be going crazy, this White House crew of ours, although one creator of the problems, President Donald Trump, grew sufficiently wise to appoint Gen. John Kelly as his chief of staff.

This former secretary of Homeland Security quickly got rid of Anthony Scaramucci, a wild-eyed goofus who used his first days as communications director to communicate foul-mouthed claptrap.

The question is whether Kelly, a tough ex-Marine who is able, knowledgeable, smart and an exemplary manager, can also get rid of blustery tweets about such things as firing an attorney general. Can he assure focus on such mighty matters as North Korea, tax reform, spending, debt and a health care system that is currently falling apart? Will he somehow straighten things out and keep the left from obtaining enough power to practice ruination?

The recent past has been an awful past. First, there were Trump's pointless tweet-screeches about getting rid of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, an excellent public servant who was not fired. Scaramucci, financier to the point of riches, was chosen to head up PR operations, prompting the resignation of Sean Spicer, a press secretary actually not that bad in often defending the indefensible.

Scaramucci was incompetent enough to indulge in a curse-a-minute tirade about co-workers with a New Yorker reporter who would obviously print every outrageous word of it. The Mooch, as Scaramucci is called, made it clear he would toss out Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, an upright administrator perhaps not fitted to guiding a ship in a hurricane. Trump OK'd the firing but, as Senate Republicans were flubbing Obamacare fixes, turned to Kelly for a rescue that will only work if Trump lets it and that one hopes is not too late.

For all his problems of style, understanding and leadership, Trump has a saving grace. He is not Hillary Clinton. A Bloomberg poll not so long ago showed his approval ratings above hers, and for good reason—she is contemptuous of millions of Americans, she is in the spend-us-to-chaos camp, her integrity is a question mark in boldface and she has been closing in on Bernie Sanders-style socialism.

She's an excellent representative of leftists who more and more worship big, incompetent government that does such things as redefine insurance so that it can only work when 1) people are forced by penalties to buy it, 2) it is subsidized and 3) it demands excruciating deductibles and premiums.

We're talking about Obamacare, typical of leftist solutions that rely ever more on coercion, pseudo-intellectual reinventions of institutions and fiscal insanity that can maybe achieve some goals for a short while but then combusts.

The Trump administration has far-from-perfect answers for some problems but remains more cautious than the Democrats, does have good answers on a number of policies and has first-rate national security officials in place. On a number of fronts, the nation has made real progress under Trump.

A problem, however, is Trump himself messing up even a Boy Scouts address and tweeting sentiments you'd expect a confused adolescent to avoid. We then have too many news outlets, Democrats and felonious bureaucratic leakers outdoing him by treating everyday standards as nothing more than an obstruction to their goal of disposing of him.

At issue is whether our president will sufficiently empower Kelly and heed him. That does not mean Kelly should be the only voice, just that he affixes order and dignity to an administration otherwise in deep trouble.

Trump's transgender tweets put nation to the test

By AUTUMN SANDEEN
Tribune News Service

Autumn Sandeen is a U.S. Navy retiree and Persian Gulf War Veteran. She writes the Trans Progressive column for San Diego's LGBT Weekly and wrote this for Progressive Media Project.

Back in 2010, I went to jail twice in the lead-up to the repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. I protested with others, handcuffing myself to the White House fence in my Navy uniform as a retired, service disabled, U.S. Navy Persian Gulf War veteran.

I'm transgender, and though the "don't ask, don't tell" policy passed under President Bill Clinton in 1993 had nothing to do with transgender people, I thought it was important that all LGBTQ communities stand together.

But "don't ask, don't tell" was also a test. Specifically, it was a test of what kind of nation the United States was going to be going forward—whether it would continue to discriminate against gay, lesbian and bisexual service members for no rational reason.

When "don't ask, don't tell" was repealed in 2010, the United States passed that test.

But open transgender service was still barred—not by law, but by U.S. Department of Defense regulation. The military, late in President Barack Obama's administration, began the process of allowing open transgender military service. Those transgender people on active duty last year were told they could serve openly under a policy that is still under review; this year, they were allowed to start changing their gender identity in the Pentagon's personnel system.

And then President Donald Trump, who literally draped himself in a rainbow flag during his campaign, has now personally failed that test. In three tweets, Trump declared that transgender service members didn't belong in the military at all.

Of the transgender military members currently serving that I've talked to, most are worried and uncertain about their futures. This is despite their good and honorable service to the nation.

In issuing his tweets, Trump seems to have listened to social conservatives in Congress who weren't winning the argument to legislatively bar funding for medical care for transgender troops. His decision took military leaders by surprise, with Marine Gen. Joe Dunford pointedly saying that until the White House issues a formal request for a policy change, the military will continue to "treat all of our personnel with respect."

In his tweets, the president cited the cost of medical care for transgender service members as a reason to bar them from serving. But a 2016 Rand study indicated the annual cost would be between $2.4 million and $8.4 million, which would increase the Pentagon's health care budget between 0.04 and 0.13 percent.

So it's not a lot of money. But taking it away could cause a lot of hurt.

There are transgender children of service members and transgender military retirees who access health care through the military's health care system. There are also disabled transgender veterans, like me, who access their health care through the VA. Transgender people are now provided full health care access short of gender confirmation surgeries, including hormones.

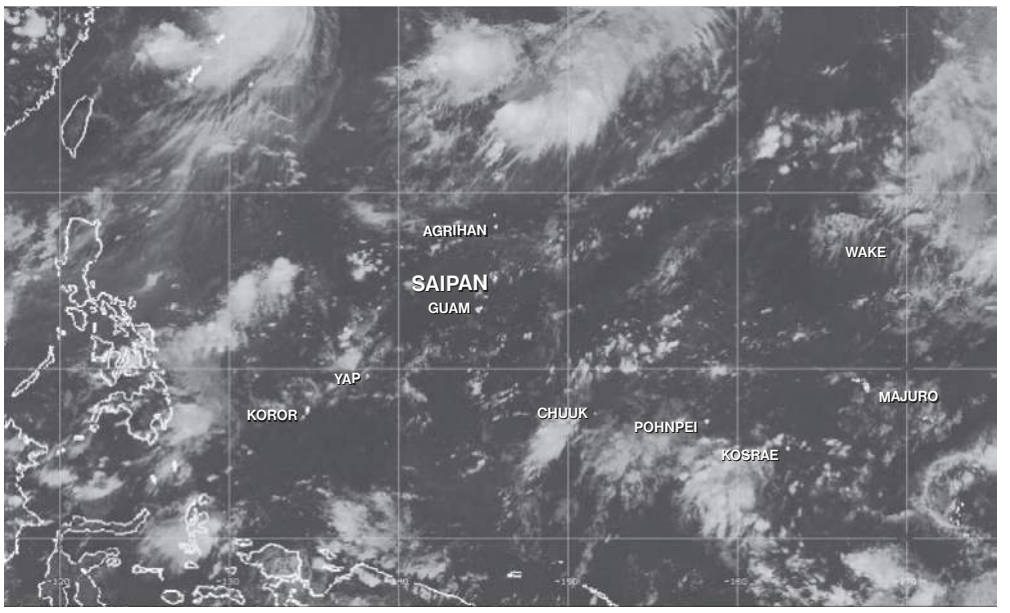
Letting transgender people serve openly in the military has now been made a test of our nation's tolerance. To date, we have a passing grade. Will we retake that test and fail?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:11 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Model guidance continues to indicate less moisture over the area beginning today and continuing for much of this week. There are also less clouds this morning across the Marianas then there have been the last several days. However, there continues to be a few showers and thunderstorms in close enough proximity. Therefore, I extended the mention of thunderstorms across the area through the morning. After that, the drier air should move in and only isolated showers are expected for the balance of the week, as high pressure moves over the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°
Beijing	Showers	90° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
New York	Showers	77° / 70°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	90° / 81°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	90° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	100° / 75°
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 53°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Tokyo	Windy	88° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	81° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:33 AM	LOW TIDE	1.07
6:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84
1:49 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.19
8:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:16 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	-	6:08 AM	7:06 PM
Wednesday	-	7:00 AM	7:50 PM
Thursday	-	7:52 AM	8:33 PM
Friday	-	8:44 AM	9:16 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE584	4:00pm	8:05pm	1, 3, 5
ZE584	4:35pm	8:15pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

ZE583	9:10am	2:40pm	1, 3, 5
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Shell honors Delta, Arenovski with two awards at NYC event

Delta Management Corp. and its owner, Jim Arenovski, were honored by Shell in New York City last month at its Smiling Stars event with two awards: "Retailer of the Year" and "Gold Retailer" status.

The annual Shining Stars awards event, which brings together the top 2 percent of Shell branded retail sites from over 80 countries around the world, is a celebration of networking, learning, and fun. Approximately 1,000 people were in attendance.

This is the first year that Shell retailer IP&E participated in the event.

Delta competed against other IP&E Shell-branded sites on Saipan and Guam and other Shell licensee's around the world in a program called "People Make the Difference Real," which measures competitors based on volume and store sales performance, cleanliness and maintenance, and customer service through inspections and mystery customer visits.

Arenovski is no stranger to this concept. "We have always trained regularly and continue to invest in our staff about our philosophy on how to engage customers. They are the reason people choose to come back to our sites."

Ephrem Gaangin, manager for the Delta Saipan, also earned the honor of attending this event.

"Ephrem is a key part of our organization and does a great job, especially in managing and motivating our talented staff," said Arenovski.

Gaangin has work with Delta for over 10 years and has demonstrated his skills for managing people year after year.

"It was an honor to attend this event. Everything was great. It is hard to describe how well we were treated. We felt like VIP's the whole time we were in New York," said Gaangin. "Of course, our staff has a lot to do with our success and I am proud of them for the years of great work they have done. It was nice they got the opportunity to be recognized."

Delta has operated Shell-branded gas stations in the CNMI since May of 1998, and has been a service leader in the region for years. In 2012 Delta was awarded top retailer in customer service through the mystery customer program.

Delta has also been a committed employer of since opening its first station almost 20 years ago, operating Shell Susupe, Shell Highway Express, Shell Puerto Rico, and Shell San Roque.

Awards night, from left, Bernard Valera of IP&E, Ephrem Gaangin, manager for the Delta Saipan, Delta Management Corp. owner Jim Arenovski, retail sites manager Genna Leon Guerrero, and IP&E vice president of Marketing & Retail Bill Ada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"We have always believed in developing staff locally and have not had a great need to seek employees from off island," Arenovski said. "We are confident in our philosophy that we can teach most anyone the skills needed to be successful, but we cannot teach personality and attitude. We hire energetic people who are willing to commit to our way of customer engagement and we invest the time and resources to train them."

He said, "There was the trip and a cash component; we gave the cash to our staff, but Ephrem and I took the trip. This coming year IP&E will also be eligible to send a forecourt and store service champion to the Smiling Stars and we are excited to have our staff participate, with the chance to attend and be honored at this event in 2018."

The first night of Smiling Stars was an award event on Ellis Island in New York harbor with the Statue of Liberty in close view.

Participants were treated to a fireworks display with the New York skyline in the background with a dinner held in Immigration Hall.

The second day included business meetings followed by a New York Yankees baseball game and the final evening and awards ceremony was held at the old Brooklyn Shipyard, now a refurbished business district and were treated to pieces of various Broadway shows and entertainment.

There were also the top retailer of the year awards for single and multi-site operators as well as service champions' awards for the best staff.

"It was an honor to get to attend this event. Our staff and Ephrem work very hard each day to deliver great service to the people of Saipan. We have a great team and I am proud of them, they are the reason for our success and they deserve such an honor," Arenovski said. "There are not many opportunities for CNMI residents to work on a 'world-class' team so if you have a great attitude and are looking to learn great skills and be on a globally recognized team, stop by any DMC shell station and pick up an application…maybe you will be our next Smiling Stars service champion."

Arenovski and Gaangin were accompanied by IP&E vice president of Marketing & Retail Bill Ada, territory manager for Saipan and Palau Bernard Valera, and company operated retail sites manager Genna Leon Guerrero. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-018

Supply and Delivery of Water and Wastewater Annual Materials

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-17-018, Supply & Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials",*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 06, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and

Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Prospective Bidders must comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Geoffrey Ada, CUC Water-Wastewater, Inventory Technician – via email address geoffrey.ada@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **174 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-038, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 29, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 18, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Saipan Summer Island Auto Fest

Motorbikes and scooters are lined up and await judging during the Saipan Summer Island Auto Fest last Saturday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A four-wheeler is put to the test during the flexing competition last Saturday at the Saipan Summer Island Auto Fest at the Marianas Business Plaza.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

One of the cars in the two-door category of the Saipan Summer Island Auto Fest is customized with gold rims to match its gold bumper and sound system.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Individuals gather around a Hilux that is judged during the sound off competition of the Saipan Summer Island Auto Fest last Saturday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Jimbo Cruz, one of the Saipan Summer Island Auto Fest judges, walks around cars entered in the two-door category last Saturday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Marianas Business Plaza is packed with hundreds of individuals who showed up during the Saipan Summer Island Auto Fest last Saturday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Triple J Motors Group poses for a picture beside one of their newest car models that was up for display last Saturday at the Saipan Summer Island Auto fest at the Marianas Business Plaza.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Tribe Marianas group poses for a picture in their booth last Saturday at the Saipan Summer Island Auto Fest at the Marianas Business Plaza.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Business

The US may not be the trade wimp Trump makes it out to be

AP
In this Thursday, April 13, 2017, file photo, a man browses his phone near a billboard with U.S. currency displayed outside a bank in Beijing.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Is the United States the 98-pound weakling of global trade?

President Donald Trump and his economic advisers think so. They point to 41 straight years of U.S. trade deficits as evidence that America has been out-competed, out-negotiated and flat out cheated by trading partners like China, Mexico and Germany—countries that consistently sell more to the United States than they buy.

Friday, the Commerce Department reported that the United States once again registered a trade deficit—$43.6 billion in June. So far this year, the trade gap is $276.6 billion, up nearly 11 percent from January-June 2016.

Trump and his team view trade deficits as an economic evil that strangles growth and kills American jobs. They've promised to bring the deficits down—by imposing tariffs and other barriers to imports if they have to.

Many economists don't see things quite that way. They reject the idea that trade is a zero-sum game in which the prize goes to countries that export more than they import. They argue that Americans benefit from the wider choices and lower prices that imports offer.

"I don't see it as a question of economic weakness," says Dean Baker, co-founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research think tank. "You could say consumers gain. We get cheaper prices. Importers gain."

But there are losers, too, when cheap imports enter the country, Baker says, especially among factory workers facing foreign competition. "In the Midwest, Ohio, Pennsylvania, we lost millions of jobs," he says. "It hurt whole communities."

Sometimes, though, a big trade deficit can be a sign of prosperity: When times are good, Americans can afford to buy more imports.

The United States, for instance, recorded a record trade deficit—$762 billion—in 2006 when economic growth was a healthy 2.7 percent. Three years later, in the depths of the Great Recession, the deficit shrank to $384 billion because worried American consumers were cutting back on imports—and everything else.

Likewise, says economist Timothy Taylor, editor of the Journal of Economic Perspectives, "Japan has had big surpluses for most of the past 25 years, and they've been a pathetic basket case."

Trade deficits do reduce gross domestic product, the broadest measure of a country's economic output. But that's mainly a matter of mathematics. GDP is supposed to count what's produced domestically. So imports—which can show up in the GDP as consumer spending when you buy, say, a Chilean wine—have to be subtracted to keep them from artificially inflating domestic production.

Team Trump says China, Mexico and other countries take advantage of unfair trade deals to drive up their exports to the United States and block imports. Many Democrats agree.

Mainstream economists say bigger economic factors are at work. The United States spends more than it saves—choices that show up as large budget deficits in Washington and big credit-card balances in American households. And "the only way you can consume more than you produce," Taylor notes, "is to import."

Economists say foreigners shouldn't be blamed for Americans not living within their means.

Billions lost in nuclear power projects, with more bills due

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A decade ago, utilities were persuading politicians around the country to let them spend big to go nuclear.

Expanding nuclear energy capacity was a sure bet, they said: Natural gas prices were rising, energy needs skyrocketing, and the federal government was poised to cripple carbon-emitting fossil fuel plants. With a dozen or more nuclear power projects being developed around the nation, cost savings could be found through simultaneous construction.

State legislators were sold. In South Carolina, they even passed a law allowing utilities to charge customers up front and to recoup their investments even if the projects never produced a kilowatt. Several other Southern states also passed "pay-as-you-go" laws.

This week, having spent more than $10 billion, executives with South Carolina Electric & Gas and Santee Cooper acknowledged that all their assumptions were wrong.

Worse still: Consumers may have to pay billions more on the rusting remains of two partially-built reactors at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station north of Columbia.

"When we started, there was talk of a nuclear renaissance restarting a whole industry in the U.S.," said Santee Cooper's chief financial officer, Jeff Armfield. He was among several executives recommending the project be abandoned. The board of the state-owned utility unanimously agreed at a public meeting Monday.

Most of the 18 nuclear projects pending before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission a decade ago have been aborted or suspended indefinitely. None of the 7 projects the NRC licensed are operational. Only one is still being built, in Georgia, at a cost of $100 million a month. Southern Company financial documents filed Wednesday say the project, slated to cost $14 billion, could cost $25 billion or more if completed.

The projects in South Carolina and Georgia were already years behind schedule and billions over budget when their shared lead contractor, Westinghouse, declared bankruptcy in March to get out of fixed-price contracts aimed at controlling escalating costs. South Carolina executives say they were forced to give up after estimated costs, budgeted at $11 billion in 2008, soared beyond $20 billion.

Judge sets $30K bail for UK researcher in malware case

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Las Vegas federal judge set bail of $30,000 on Friday for a celebrated young British cybersecurity researcher accused by U.S. prosecutors of creating and distributing malicious software designed to steal banking passwords.

The attorney for Marcus Hutchins, who has broad support in the information-security community, said the 23-year-old hacker would contest the charges. She said he would not be released until Monday because there wasn't enough time to post bail after Friday's afternoon ruling.

Hutchins is due in federal court in Milwaukee on Tuesday.

The U.K. resident gained overnight fame with quick thinking in May when he helped curb the spread of the WannaCry ransomware attack that had crippled thousands of computers worldwide.

Much of the cybersecurity community rallied around Hutchins after his arrest Wednesday, calling him a principled, ethical hacker.

The conditions of his release came as a relief for his supporters.

"This is excellent news," said Nicholas Weaver, a computer scientist at the University of California at Berkeley. "The indictment is remarkably shallow even by indictment standards, which is disappointing because it adds considerable uncertainty and fosters distrust with the general security community."

Las Vegas-based attorney Adrian Lobo said money for Hutchins' bond would come from a variety of supporters and family in the U.S. and abroad. The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital leading civil liberties nonprofit, said it helped arrange Hutchins counsel and was working to find him an attorney to provide "the best possible defense."

"Security researchers are vital to protecting the computers we rely upon every day," EFF general counsel Kurt Opsahl said via email. "Mr. Hutchins' arrest has unfortunately deepened the divide between the research community and the government."

Weaver said federal prosecutors and the FBI were making a mistake by not providing more details about the crimes it alleges Hutchins committed. "Having more information would act to reassure the larger security community," he said.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Dan Cowhig said Hutchins admitted to authorities in an interview following his arrest that he was the author of the malware code and sold it. He said the government has evidence of chat logs in which Hutchins discussed with an associate the sale of the Kronos banking Trojan.

Magistrate Judge Nancy Koppe said Hutchins is not a danger to the community and has sufficient community support to not be a flight risk.

She ordered him to surrender his passport and said he could fly to Wisconsin, where he was indicted last month, without identification.

"The most recent charge in the indictment is in July of 2015. That's two years ago that the defendant has been free to roam the world during that period of time," she said.

Hutchins did not enter a plea at Friday's hearing. He was arrested while preparing to return home from the Def Con convention for computer security professionals.

He stands accused of creating and distributing malware known as the Kronos banking Trojan. Such malware infects web browsers, then captures usernames and passwords when an unsuspecting user visits a bank or other trusted location, enabling cybertheft.

Computer law expert Tor Ekeland described the evidence so in the case far as flimsy.

"This is a very, very problematic prosecution to my mind, and I think it's bizarre that the United States government has chosen to prosecute somebody who's arguably their hero in the WannaCry malware attack and potentially saved lives and thousands, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars over the sale of alleged malware," Ekeland said.

Nation

FBI: Explosive detonated at Minnesota mosque

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP)—The FBI was searching for suspects after an explosive device tore through part of a suburban Minneapolis mosque on Saturday as people were preparing for morning prayers, damaging a room but not causing any injuries, authorities and witnesses said.

The blast happened at around 5 a.m. at the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington, according to Bloomington Police Chief Jeff Potts. Windows of the imam's office were shattered, either by the blast or by an object thrown through them, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported .

One worshipper saw a pickup truck speeding away shortly after the explosion, said Mohamed Omar, the center's executive director. He said the mosque, which primarily serves people from the area's large Somali community, occasionally receives threatening calls and emails.

AP
Law enforcement officials investigate an explosion at the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington, Minn., on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017.

"We came to this country for the same reason everyone else came here: freedom to worship," Yasir Abdalrahman, a worshipper at the mosque, told the newspaper. "And that freedom is under threat. Every other American should be insulted by this."

Asad Zaman, director of the Muslim American Society of Minnesota, described the attack as a firebombing.

Investigators will try to determine whether the incident was a hate crime and who may have been behind it, according to Richard Thornton, special agent in charge of the FBI's Minneapolis Division.

Thornton said during an afternoon news conference that the explosion was caused by an "improvised explosive device," and that investigators have recovered components of the device to figure out how it was put together.

But he didn't take questions and declined to provide details about the device, citing the ongoing investigation, which is being led by the FBI.

Saturday's bombing comes amid a rise in reports of anti-Muslim incidents in the U.S., including arson attacks and vandalism at mosques, harassment of women wearing Muslim head coverings and bullying of Muslim schoolchildren. Just recently in Minnesota, an Islamic cemetery in Castle Rock Township reported it had been vandalized with spray painted profanities and swastikas.

The mosque in Bloomington, just south of Minneapolis, serves as a religious center and community organizing platform for Muslim activists and leaders in the area, according to the society. The group is offering a $10,000 reward for information that leads to an arrest or conviction.

A $10,000 reward also is being offered by the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR. The group said its national office is urging Islamic centers and mosques to step up security.

"If a bias motive is proven, this attack would represent another in a long list of hate incidents targeting Islamic institutions nationwide in recent months," said Amir Malik, the local chapter's civil rights director.

Along with a mosque, the building houses a community center that hosts computer classes, a basketball league, religious classes, lectures and other events.

Minnesota is home to the largest Somali community in the U.S., roughly 57,000 people, according to the latest census figures. The immigrants have been coming to Minnesota from their war-torn homeland since the 1990s, drawn by generous social services and the sense of community among the diaspora.

Employer-based health coverage likely to stay awhile

WASHINGTON (AP)—Get your insurance through your employer? The ongoing political turmoil around "Obamacare" all but guarantees you'll still be able to do that.

Ask Walt Rowen, whose business is etching glass but whose experience managing century-old, family-owned Susquehanna Glass makes him something of an expert on health care. He's provided coverage to employees, then canceled it, steering them to the health insurance exchange. But with those premiums rising, Rowen this year is again covering his 70 or so workers under the umbrella of employer-sponsored health insurance.

Employer-provided health insurance is so ingrained in the American workplace that people expect it to continue even as politicians thrash out the role of government in health care. That's according to polling, business owners and consumers. And in a nearly saturated labor market, employers don't want to give workers a reason to work somewhere else.

"I think a company—any size company—would be incredibly afraid to just cancel its insurance policy and say the hell with it," says Rowen, whose company is located in Columbia, Pennsylvania. He said that could result in employees fleeing, especially in states where the Affordable Care Act insurance markets are weak.

With the GOP crusade to repeal and replace "Obamacare" failing, the federal mandates that people have insurance and that employers with more than 50 workers provide it seem likely to stay in place in the foreseeable future. The Trump administration on Tuesday pledged to keep working with Congress on a rewrite. "Obamacare's mandates saddled many with health care costs they simply couldn't afford," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

For now, the Trump administration is considering whether or not to continue paying the law's cost-sharing subsidies, which have helped lower premiums. Without those subsidies, it's estimated that premiums will rise and insurers will leave markets.

The ACA requires companies with 50 or more full-time employees to provide insurance to employees and their dependents. The Kaiser Family Foundation says nearly 96 percent of companies of that size already were offering coverage before the law took effect in 2014. Nearly 35 percent of companies with fewer than 50 workers also were offering insurance.

Removing the employer mandate wouldn't sit well with a wide swath of the American public.

A poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research says 61 percent oppose revoking the requirement, including 58 percent of Republicans.

Workers have been getting their health insurance through their employers for decades, since the U.S. government exempted employer-paid health benefits from wage controls and income tax during World War II.

Nearly 90 percent of workers are in companies that provide health benefits, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation/HRET annual survey in 2016. Taking into account dependents, roughly half of Americans are covered by employer-based insurance.

Large companies "need to attract and retain employees and they'd be at a competitive disadvantage if they stopped offering health benefits," said William Kramer, executive director for national health policy for the Pacific Business Group on Health.

As a result, human resource consultants say it's likely that businesses will remain committed to offering coverage. Some experts question whether the ACA's employer mandate makes much, if any, difference when there's a solid business case for providing health care: With unemployment low and the labor market tight, benefits give employers an advantage in recruiting and retaining the best workers.

ACROSS THE NATION

1 thing Obamas aren't giving up: Martha's Vineyard vacation

BOSTON (AP)—The Obamas are taking their annual summer vacation on Martha's Vineyard, this time as private citizens. Former President Barack Obama and his family are headed to the Massachusetts resort island this weekend. And while they no longer travel under the watchful eye of the world, their trip details were guarded Friday. Ann Richart, manager of Martha's Vineyard Airport, confirmed the visit. But she and other local officials declined to provide specifics. Obama spokesman Kevin Lewis also declined to comment. But judging from "precedent"—the visit will be low-key, with bike rides, golf, and ice cream outings. The Obamas are no strangers to the island. The family spent seven of their eight summers there while Obama was president and were regulars long before he was in office. Last summer, their younger daughter, Sasha, even worked briefly at one of their favorite spots, Nancy's Restaurant & Snack Bar in Oak Bluffs.

Prisoner charged with rape overpowers deputy, steals his gun

PAULDING, Ohio (AP)—A nationwide manhunt is underway for an Ohio rape suspect who overpowered a sheriff's deputy in a transport van and stole his gun and ammunition. Paulding County Sheriff Jason Landers said Saturday that FBI agents and U.S. Marshals have joined the search for 32-year-old Branden Powell after his escape around noon Friday on an 80-mile (129-kilometer) trip from a psychiatric hospital in Toledo to the Paulding County Jail in northwest Ohio. According to Landers, Powell was in leg shackles and in handcuffs secured to a belly belt when he jumped over the seat and put the deputy in a headlock, causing the van to crash into a ditch. Powell managed to get the deputy's gun during a struggle and ordered the deputy at gunpoint to remove his restraints.

Asia

UN imposes tough new sanctions on North Korea

AP

Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Liu Jieyi votes during a Security Council meeting on a new sanctions resolution that would increase economic pressure on North Korea to return to negotiations on its missile program, Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017 at U.N. headquarters.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved tough new sanctions Saturday to punish North Korea for its escalating nuclear and missile programs including a ban on coal and other exports worth over $1 billion—a huge bite in its total exports, valued at $3 billion last year.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley called the resolution "the single largest economic sanctions package ever leveled against the North Korean regime" and "the most stringent set of sanctions on any country in a generation."

But she warned that it is not enough and "we should not fool ourselves into thinking we have solved the problem—not even close."

"The threat of an outlaw nuclearized North Korean dictatorship remains ... (and) is rapidly growing more dangerous," Haley told council members after the vote.

The U.S.-drafted resolution, negotiated with North Korea's neighbor and ally China, is aimed at increasing economic pressure on Pyongyang to return to negotiations on its nuclear and missile programs—a point stressed by all 15 council members in speeches after the vote.

President Donald Trump tweeted: "The United Nations Security Council just voted 15-0 to sanction North Korea. China and Russia voted with us. Very big financial impact!"

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, in Manila for talks with regional counterparts, called it "a good outcome."

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for all sides in the nuclear dispute to return to negotiations and repeated Beijing's proposal for a "double suspension," or a halt to North Korean nuclear development and joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises.

Haley told the Security Council that U.S.-South Korean military exercises have been carried out regularly and openly for nearly 40 years and "they will continue."

The Security Council has already imposed six rounds of sanctions that have failed to halt North Korea's drive to improve its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons capabilities.

The resolution's adoption follows North Korea's first successful tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States on July 3 and July 27.

It condemns the launches "in the strongest terms" and reiterates previous calls for North Korea to suspend all ballistic missile launches and abandon its nuclear weapons and nuclear program "in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner."

The centerpiece is a ban on North Korea exports of coal, iron, lead and seafood products - and a ban on all countries importing these products, estimated to be worth over $1 billion in hard currency.

According to a Security Council diplomat, coal has been North Korea's largest export, earning $1.2 billion last year which was then restricted by the Security Council in November to a maximum $400 million. This year, Pyongyang was estimated to earn $251 million from iron and iron ore exports, $113 million from lead and lead ore exports, and $295 million from fish and seafood exports, the diplomat said.

The resolution also bans countries from giving any additional permits to North Korean laborers—another source of money for Kim Jong Un's regime. And it prohibits all new joint ventures with North Korean companies and bans new foreign investment in existing ones.

It adds nine North Koreans, mainly officials or representatives of companies and banks, to the U.N. sanctions blacklist, banning their travel and freezing their assets. It also imposes an asset freeze on two companies and two banks.

The council diplomat, who was not authorized to speak publicly and insisted on anonymity, called the newly sanctioned Foreign Trade Bank "a very critical clearing house for foreign exchange."

The Mansudae Overseas Project Group of Companies, which was also added to the blacklist, is described in the resolution as engaged in exporting workers for construction, including of monuments, in Africa and Southeast Asia.

N. Korean missiles add urgency to Hiroshima A-bomb appeals

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Hiroshima's appeal of "never again" on the anniversary Sunday of the world's first atomic bomb attack has gained urgency as North Korea moves ever closer to acquiring nuclear weapons, showing its growing prowess with increasingly frequent missile launches.

When the U.S. dropped the bomb on Aug. 6, 1945, Toshiki Fujimori's mother was carrying him, then just a year old, piggyback to the hospital. The impact of the explosion threw them both to the ground, nearly killing him.

"Obviously tensions are growing as North Korea has been pushing ahead with nuclear tests and development," said Fujimori. "Nuclear weapons just are unacceptable for mankind."

Many Japanese and others in the region seem resigned to North Korea's apparent newfound capacity to launch missiles capable of reaching much of the continental United States. But the threat lends a deeper sense of alarm in Hiroshima, where 140,000 died in that first A-bomb attack, which was followed on Aug. 9, 1945, by another that killed more than 70,000 people in Nagasaki.

"This hell is not a thing of the past," Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said in his peace declaration at Sunday's ceremony. "As long as nuclear weapons exist and policymakers threaten their use, their horror could leap into our present at any moment. You could find yourself suffering their cruelty."

Today, a single bomb can cause even greater damage than the bombs dropped 72 years ago, he said. "Humankind must never commit such an act," he said, urging nuclear states, as well as Japan, to join the nuclear weapons ban treaty adopted by the United Nations in July.

Fujimori said that each Aug. 6, his late mother, who also survived, insisted on retelling the story of the attack to children in their neighborhood, saying she had to keep reminding them to help prevent the same mistake from happening again. Decades later, 73-year-old Fujimori himself is a leader of Hidankyo, a major organization of atomic bomb survivors.

"We must eradicate nuclear weapons from the earth to make the world a safe place to live," he said in an interview. "There is still a lot to do and we must keep working on it."

He said the adoption of the U.N. nuclear weapons ban, which was boycotted by all nuclear-armed nations, shows that most of the world supports that cause.

Search called off for 3 US Marines who crashed off Australia

SYDNEY (AP)—U.S. military officials called off a search and rescue operation on Sunday for three U.S. Marines who were missing after their Osprey aircraft crashed into the sea off the east coast of Australia while trying to land.

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps suspended the rescue operation and launched a recovery effort instead, the Marine base Camp Butler in Japan said in a statement, essentially confirming the military does not expect to find the missing Marines alive.

The Marines' next of kin had been notified, and Australia's defense force was assisting the Americans with the recovery effort, the statement said.

The MV-22 Osprey had launched from the USS Bonhomme Richard and was conducting regularly scheduled operations on Saturday when it crashed into the water, Camp Butler said. The ship's small boats and aircraft immediately responded in the search and rescue efforts, and 23 of 26 personnel aboard the aircraft were rescued.

"Recovery and salvage operations can take several months to complete, but can be extended based on several environmental factors," Camp Butler's statement said. "The circumstances of the mishap are currently under investigation, and there is no additional information available at this time."

The Osprey is a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, but flies like an airplane. They have been involved in a series of high-profile crashes in recent years.

The aircraft was in Australia for a joint military training exercise held by the U.S. and Australia last month in Shoalwater Bay in Queensland state. The Talisman Sabre exercise, a biennial event between the two nations, involved more than 30,000 troops and 200 aircraft.

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said Saturday's incident occurred off the coast of Shoalwater Bay.

"I can confirm no Australian Defence Force personnel were on board the aircraft," Payne said in a statement.

Payne said she had spoken with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis "to offer Australia's support in any way that can be of assistance."

A White House official said President Donald Trump had been briefed by chief of staff John Kelly on the mishap of an aircraft off the east coast of Australia.

In 2015, a U.S. Osprey crashed during a training exercise in Hawaii, killing two Marines. Last December, a U.S. military Osprey crash-landed off Japan's southern island of Okinawa. Its five crew members were rescued safely. And in January, three U.S. soldiers were wounded in the "hard landing" of an Osprey in Yemen.

World

Venezuelan opposition leader Lopez back under house arrest

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez was returned home to serve his sentence under house arrest, days after being hauled back to prison in the middle of the night in a move that drew international condemnation.

The activist's wife Lilian Tintori said in a message on Twitter late Saturday that she and her husband remained committed to achieving "peace and freedom for Venezuela."

Lopez was released from prison on July 8 and placed under house arrest after serving three years of a 13-year sentence on charges of inciting violence at opposition rallies. Many human rights groups considered him a political prisoner.

But he was taken back into custody last Tuesday along with former Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma in what many believed was a renewed crackdown on the opposition following the election of delegates to the constitutional assembly.

Some saw his return home as a sign Venezuelan officials may be rethinking the crackdown, even as the new, all-powerful constitutional assembly ousted the defiant chief prosecutor.

Cries of "traitor" and "justice" erupted as the 545 pro-government delegates voted Saturday unanimously to remove Luisa Ortega from her post as the nation's top law enforcement official and replace her with a staunch government supporter.

They said they were acting in response to a ruling by the government-stacked Supreme Court, which banned Ortega from leaving the country and froze her bank accounts while it weighs criminal charges against her for alleged irregularities.

Ortega, a longtime loyalist who broke with the socialist government in April, refused to recognize the decision and vowed to continue defending the rights of Venezuelans from Maduro's "coup" against the constitution "with my last breath."

AP

President of Venezuela's National Assembly Julio Borges speaks with members of the media during a news conference in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017.

"This is just a tiny example of what's coming for everyone that dares to oppose this totalitarian form of government," Ortega said in the statement she signed as chief prosecutor. "If they're doing this to the chief prosecutor, imagine the helpless state all Venezuelans live in."

Earlier Saturday, Ortega was pushed and barred from entering her office by dozens of national guardsmen in riot gear who took control of the entrance to the building.

She alleged that authorities were desperate to get their hands on dossiers containing information on dirty dealings by high-level officials, including sensitive details about millions of dollars in bribes paid by Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht.

Assembly delegates later swore in as her replacement Ombudsman Tarek William Saab, who was recently sanctioned by the Trump administration for failing to protect protesters from abuses in his role as the nation's top human rights official.

The constitutional assembly was seated despite strong criticism from the United States, other countries and the Venezuelan opposition, which fear that it will be a tool for imposing dictatorship. Supporters say it will pacify a country rocked by violent protests.

Its installation is virtually certain to intensify a political crisis that has brought four months of protests in which at least 120 people have died and hundreds more have been jailed.

Maduro also wants the assembly to strip opposition lawmakers of their constitutional immunity from prosecution, saying their constant conspiring to oust him shouldn't be protected.

While members of congress say they will only be removed by force, the opposition is struggling to regain its footing in the face of the government's strong-arm tactics and the re-emergence of old, internal divisions.

In a sign of its cowed, demoralized state, only a few hundred demonstrators showed up for a Friday protest against the constitutional assembly, one of the smallest turnouts in months. Those who did turn out said fear of arrest—rights groups claim there are more than 600 "political prisoners" jailed during the protests—may be keeping people at home but urged Venezuelans to remain mobilized.

"We shouldn't think the government is winning," said Julio Borges, president of the opposition-controlled congress, making an emotional plea for Maduro's opponents to remain on the streets and capitalize on the government's increasing international isolation. "The only thing it's doing is destroying itself and committing suicide."

President Juan Manuel Santos of neighboring Colombia called Saturday's removal of Luisa Ortega "the first dictatorial act" of an "illegitimate" assembly and vowed solidarity with the Venezuelan people. On Saturday, the South American trade bloc Mercosur moved to suspend Venezuela for failing to follow democratic norms.

Venezuela was previously suspended in December for failing to uphold commitments it made when it joined the group in 2012. The new decision will make it harder for the country to return to good standing since the new suspension can be lifted only when the bloc is satisfied that Venezuela has restored democratic order.

Maduro responded by calling Mercosur's move part of a dirty campaign led by the Trump administration to discredit Venezuela and get its hands on its vast oil reserves.

"They come walking down the middle of the street barking orders, treating rulers like their maids," Maduro told Argentina's Radio Rebelde in an interview.

Activists protest Rio water, filthy despite Olympic promises

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Environmental activists sailed across Rio de Janeiro's Guanabara Bay on Saturday to protest pollution in the city's waterways and broken promises to clean them up around the 2016 Olympics.

The silent flotilla coincided with the one-year anniversary of the start of the Rio Games. The Brazilian city pledged in its Olympic bid to treat 80 percent of its water waste by the time the Games began, but failed to deliver on that promise.

Days ahead of the Games, a study commissioned by The Associated Press showed dangerously high levels of contamination.

Sergio Ricardo, founder of the collective Baia Viva, led about 50 activists and fishermen across Guanabara Bay. Many boats displayed banners demanding improved sanitation.

"The Bay is still alive, fishing is still alive and marine life resists despite the (inaction by) authorities. But society has to fight for its own environmental health," said Ricardo.

With the Olympics long over and the country in the midst of an economic crisis, expectations of any improvement are now low.

At various times this year, the beaches of Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon—the most popular with tourists—have been deemed too unclean for bathing by the State Environmental Institute. The waters of Botafogo, Flamengo and nearly half of the Barra da Tijuca seashore have consistently been listed as "unbatheable."

The lagoons have fared even worse. Much touted by the International Olympic Committee as among the legacy works for the Games, the recovery of the Tijuca, Camorim and Jacarepagua lagoons fell behind schedule and was later interrupted.

Mario Moscatelli, a biologist and longtime environmental advocate, thinks the cleanup was never a priority.

"The authorities did nothing when Brazil was doing well, when they were looking forward to the Games and money was not lacking. What would they do now that they have the great excuse of the (financial) crisis?"

WORLD BRIEFS

3,500 Brazilian soldiers enter Rio slums amid violence spike

SAO PAULO (AP)—More than 3,500 Brazilian soldiers are occupying a series of slum communities in northern Rio de Janeiro as part of efforts to combat a spike in violence. The troops moved into the Complexo do Lins communities and neighboring Camarista Meier in the early hours of Saturday. Defense Minister Raul Jungmann told Globo TV that the troops would stay there as long as necessary. Last week 8,500 soldiers were deployed in Rio to fight organized crime gangs, which control many of the city's slums. Brazilian television showed soldiers armed with automatic rifles sitting atop tanks as they patrolled the communities. Mounting violence in Rio has led authorities to acknowledge in recent weeks that much of the city is out of their control.

France works to protect its first panda cub after twin died

PARIS (AP)—Chinese giant panda experts and French zookeepers are working to ensure a panda cub's survival after its twin died during the first-ever birth of the rare animal in France. Images released Saturday by the Beauval Zoo south of Paris show mother Huan Huan enveloping the cub and zoo handlers feeding it in an incubator with a small bottle. The pink, hairless male weighing 142 grams (five ounces) is tiny compared to its 86-kilogram (190-pound) mother. She bore twins Friday, but the firstborn was too weak to survive. "She's a very protective mother, which it makes it difficult" for the panda experts to check on the baby and supplement its feedings, said Delphine Delord, director of communications and educational programs at the zoo. Two Chinese panda experts brought colostrum, or early breast milk, from panda mothers in China to help in the crucial first week, Delord said.

Health & Fitness

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Americans on the whole are not running as fast as we used to, and wea re getting even slower every year. The only thing wea re quick at is coming up with excuses to rationalize the slower times wea re posting.This news comes from Jens Jakob Andersen, a statistician at the Copenhagen Business School. Hea s a former competitive runner who uses his spare time to amass and analyze data about running. He crunched the times recorded by 34.7 million American runners in nearly 29,000 races a marathons, half-marathons, 10Ks and 5Ks a from 1996 to 2016.

Why the average American runner 'has never been slower'

By JEFF STRICKLER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

If you're planning to enter a race, allow a little extra time to reach the finish line. You're not as fast as you used to be.

It's not just you. Americans on the whole are not running as fast as we used to, and we're getting even slower every year. The only thing we're quick at is coming up with excuses to rationalize the slower times we're posting.

This news comes from Jens Jakob Andersen, a statistician at the Copenhagen Business School. He's a former competitive runner who uses his spare time to amass and analyze data about running. He crunched the times recorded by 34.7 million American runners in nearly 29,000 races—marathons, half-marathons, 10Ks and 5Ks—from 1996 to 2016.

His conclusion: "The average American runner has never been slower."

He does offer one caveat: This doesn't apply to elite runners. Competitive runners continue to improve year-over-year results.

As for the rest of us, plop down on the nearest couch and listen to what Andersen has to say. By breaking down the data into subgroups, he has put the kibosh on every excuse we've come up with for slowing down.

Myth: The number of casual participants, including people who walk-run or even walk an entire course, is rising. Because they don't train as much as the more enthusiastic runners, their times are slower.

Fact: "This is a sensible argument," Andersen concedes. But it's also invalid. Casual runners and walkers also are needing longer to finish races. "We can clearly see that the slowing down is on every level," the study says.

Myth: The number of women participating in races is rising. While there are some very fast female runners, on average women tend to be slower than men.

Fact: Women's times in isolation are slower, too. The average marathon time for women has increased nearly 10 minutes since 2000.

Myth: It's the baby boomers' fault. They made running a mass sport, and now they're getting older and slower.

Fact: Of course, individual runners are going to see changes in their athleticism as they age, but these findings cut across age groups. The argument doesn't explain why today's 30-somethings are posting higher times than their counterparts a decade ago.

What does Andersen think is causing all this? While pointing out that the study was not set up to draw causative suppositions, he does have some ideas:

- Higher obesity rates in adults and teens.
- A jump in diabetes and hypertension.
- A decrease in overall health (as measured in health care expenditures).

There is one last myth that has drawn Andersen's attention: the theory that distance running is losing some of its appeal to activities such as biking and that, as it does, participants for whom running is a struggle—i.e., the slowpokes—will drop out of the statistical pool and our collective times will improve as a result. So far, it's not happening.

"In the last two years (2015 and 2016), numbers of participants are declining," the study says. But "the finish time in all the four major race distances is still growing."

Get smart about smoothies

Remain calorie-aware when your smoothie is simply a healthy beverage with your meal.

Smoothies can be a nutritious addition to your diet. However, they also can add a lot of unforeseen calories, especially when a smoothie is simply a beverage with a meal.

Mayo Clinic dietitian Kate Zeratsky has some simple ways to get smart about smoothies.

Before you fill the blender, ask yourself a question about that smoothie:

"Are you using it as a meal replacement, or are you having it as a beverage with your meal?" asks Zeratsky.

Either way, Zeratsky says let the fruit do the sweet-talking.

"Fruit is a great source of natural sugar, and you need not necessarily add extra sugar," adds Zeratsky.

But you should add some greens like spinach or kale.

"Smoothies, with their natural sweetness, are a great way to mask some of the bitter flavors of vegetables," says Zeratsky.

And back to that question:

"If you're having it as a meal replacement, you want to make sure that it has the components of a meal," adds Zeratsky.

Include a protein or good fat like natural peanut butter, yogurt, avocado, chia or flaxseeds.

"Just be aware of how much you're adding, because those can be very concentrated sources of calories," says Zeratsky.

And remain calorie-aware when your smoothie is simply a healthy beverage with your meal.

"Maybe add some vegetables, some water, maybe some ice cubes," says Zeratsky. "That creates a smoothie with more fluid and fewer calories." ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation

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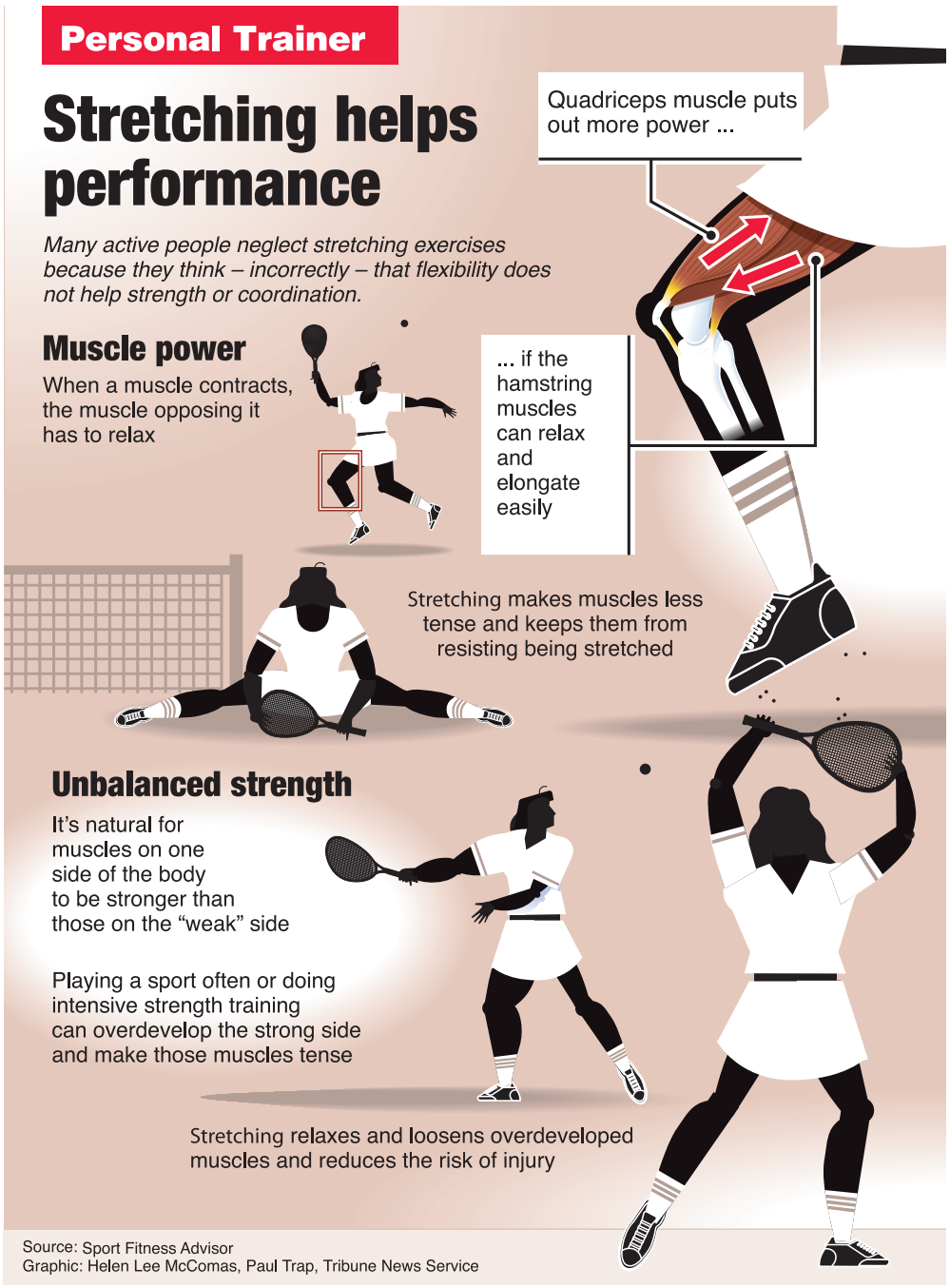
Stretching helps performance

Many active people neglect stretching exercises because they think – incorrectly – that flexibility does not help strength or coordination.


Quadriceps muscle puts out more power ...
... if the hamstring muscles can relax and elongate easily
Muscle power
When a muscle contracts, the muscle opposing it has to relax
Stretching makes muscles less tense and keeps them from resisting being stretched
Unbalanced strength
It's natural for muscles on one side of the body to be stronger than those on the "weak" side
Playing a sport often or doing intensive strength training can overdevelop the strong side and make those muscles tense
Stretching relaxes and loosens overdeveloped muscles and reduces the risk of injury

Source: Sport Fitness Advisor
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Ziering: 'Sharknado' has 'secret sauce' he can't explain

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The memes and mockery abound, but "Sharknado," which has conquered audiences, netted dozens of celebrity cameos such as George R.R. Martin, Ne-Yo and Kelly Osbourne, and has turned into an annual event. The fifth installment of the TV movie series about airborne sharks arrives Sunday with new celebrities and international settings.

"As a viewer I appreciate it because it's fun, it's escapism, it's pure entertainment. But how do you explain it? I don't know," said series star Ian Ziering, who along with Tara Reid fights a tornado of sharks with a chain saw. "Major motion picture studios spend hundreds of millions of dollars trying to capture some of whatever it is that makes our little 'Sharknado' movie globally popular."

"It's kind of like the secret sauce: No one really knows for sure. I wish I knew, I would be making my own movie," he said with a laugh.

"Sharknado: Global Swarming" premieres Sunday on Syfy. It finds Ziering's Fin Shepard an expert in "sharknados" who is called upon by governments around the world to fight the crazy phenomenon.

Filming took the cast and crew to Europe, Asia and Australia. This year's cameos include Olivia Newton-John, Bret Michaels, Clay Aiken, Charo and Mexican weather girl Yanet Garcia.

"Now that we've become a global movie it's not just people who want to be in the movie, there's countries who have solicited," Ziering said.

"I think the craziest place that we shot that was, (where) they were looking at us like we were out of our mind would be Tokyo when we were running in the streets at night, like screaming. They don't understand the language, and they're looking at us and this crazy hair, and he's got this in his hand, People were like, 'What the hell is going on?'" Reid said.

The plot has been nonsensical from the beginning and has created many memes on the web. Even Ziering found it ridiculous at the beginning.

"When I read the first 'Sharknado' movie I thought It was terrible, I told my wife that I couldn't do this movie, that it would be the end of my career," said the actor, who starred in the popular '90s TV series "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Melrose Place."

"I am an actor, but my most important job is provider of my family. I didn't have very much confidence in the movie, but I did it anyway to provide for my family."

The love of the fans has led to a yearly installment since 2013, all of them directed by Anthony C. Ferrante.

For Ziering, the biggest challenge has been "keeping it all together."

"We're saying things that are so ridiculous that sometimes you really want to laugh really hard," he said. "But you have to take all of this really seriously, because in the context of this movie these are very serious scenarios."

At this point the only way he would stop being part of "Sharknado" would be "if Fin Shepard ever got eaten and is not able to chain saw his way out of the shark."

In this Aug. 3, 2017 file photo, cast members Ian Ziering, left, and Tara Reid participate in the BUILD Speaker Series to discuss "Sharknado 5: Global Swarming" at AOL Studios in New York. The film premieres Sunday on Syfy. AP

Taylor Swift, ex-radio host head to court over groping claim

DENVER (AP)—Taylor Swift and her support team didn't call police after she said she had been groped by a Denver radio host during a photo session before a concert.

Instead, they called his boss, and David Mueller lost his job. The disc jockey later sued the singer-songwriter, saying he had been falsely accused and wanted $3 million in damages.

Swift countersued, claiming sexual assault, setting up a civil trial set to begin Monday in federal court in Denver that will largely turn on who the eight-member jury believes.

Swift is scheduled to testify. Both sides say no settlement is in the works.

Swift

The lawsuits provide differing accounts of backstage events before Swift performed at a 2013 concert at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

Swift tried to keep the situation "discreet and quiet and confidential" and was upset by Mueller's claim that "for some reason she might have some incentive to actually fabricate this story," her attorney, Douglas Baldridge, has argued in court.

Swift is seeking a verdict that awards her $1, while holding Mueller responsible and "serving as an example to other women who may resist publicly reliving similar outrageous and humiliating acts," her lawsuit states.

Some entertainment attorneys say celebrities often want to address such situations outside court.

"Once celebrities decide to take legal action, it's going to hit the press, they're going to be called as a witness and they have to spend time with that," said Tre Lovell, a California-based attorney who represents production and entertainment management companies.

"They don't necessarily want that. They want to focus on their career, their brands, their sponsorships. They have a whole revenue stream that's at stake," Lovell said.

With a lot at stake, Michael Niborski, an attorney whose firm represents Bruno Mars and Kanye West, said Swift "is particularly well-suited to represent women's rights, female empowerment and not taking this kind of behavior."

Mueller, then 51, was a morning host at a Denver country-music station when he was assigned to attend Swift's June 2, 2013, concert.

Denmark prince refuses to be buried next to wife, the queen

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—The husband of Denmark's Queen Margrethe is causing a stir in one of the world's oldest monarchies.

Prince Henrik has announced he won't be buried next to Margrethe in the Roskilde cathedral, where Danish royals have been buried since 1559. She has had a specially designed sarcophagus made for the couple there.

"Traditions are important to all monarchies so this is felt pretty violently," said Lars Hovbakke Soerensen, an expert in Danish history.

Henrik

Lene Balleby, the spokeswoman for Denmark's royal house, told Danish tabloid newspaper BT that the France-born Henrik has "for years been dissatisfied with his role and the title."

Margrethe acceded to the throne in 1972 and became Denmark's first female monarch in centuries. The 83-year-old prince has long complained that he didn't become king instead.

"The decision not to be buried beside the queen is the natural consequence of not having been treated equally in relation to his spouse," Balleby was quoted as saying.

"Any man who is not equal to his spouse is not worthy to be buried in the same grave," Henrik said Friday, according to the Ekstra Bladet tabloid.

A change to the Danish Constitution in 1953 allowed female succession, paving the way for Margrethe to become the monarch. Even before that, Henrik wouldn't have become king.

"This is the culmination of his grumbling in the past...a way to say to Danes and Denmark, 'Thanks, but no thanks,'" Hovbakke Soerensen said.

The palace said Thursday that Margrethe, 77, has accepted Henrik's decision, adding it didn't change her burial plans.

Officials want R. Kelly concert canceled after media report

ATLANTA (AP)—Officials in a Georgia county want an upcoming concert by R. Kelly canceled after a media report accusing the singer of mental and physical abuse against young women.

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners sent a letter this week to Live Nation asking the entertainment company to cancel Kelly's Aug. 25 concert. Live Nation contracts with the county to plan and promote events at the county-owned amphitheater just outside Atlanta.

Messages seeking reaction from Live Nation to the letter weren't immediately returned Friday afternoon.

Commission Chairman John Eaves told reporters Friday that he was troubled by a BuzzFeed News report last month, which quoted parents and several women alleging that Kelly forms relationships with young women interested in the music industry and then mentally and physically abuses them.

An attorney for Kelly told BuzzFeed that he denies the allegations.

Eaves said board members decided to ask the concert promoter to cancel the event after hearing from "many" county residents who objected to holding it the public-owned site.

"They object to their tax dollars providing a stage for an entertainer who is repeatedly in a swirl of controversy surrounding the sexual exploitation of women and underage girls," Eaves said.

Eaves said even though Kelly hasn't been charged with or convicted of any crimes related to the media report, he felt comfortable speaking out "on a moral basis."

Philly's Walk of Fame to welcome Jill Scott, Patti LaBelle, and more

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia's Music Alliance will induct a line-up of influential musicians spanning a wide range of genres to its Walk of Fame, including local favorites Jill Scott and Patti LaBelle.

The class of 2017 features a star-studded list of musicians and artists from guitar virtuoso Sister Rosetta Tharpe to 1970s R&B group Sister Sledge, and Sound of Philadelphia acts McFadden & Whitehead and the Soul Survivors.

LaBelle is being inducted alongside Sarah Dash and Nona Hendryx as part of the 1970s group LaBelle.

An alliance board member says the honorees show why Philadelphia remains a hub for award-winning talent.

An Oct. 4. Induction ceremony on the Avenue of the Arts will be followed by a gala at the Fillmore Philadelphia.

The Music Walk of Fame has honored over 130 Philadelphia musicians since its inception in 1986.

:-(Filmgoer accused of doing lewd act as he is watching 'Emoji Movie'

HOWELL, N.J. (AP)—Authorities say a man has been charged with performing a lewd act on himself during a screening of the "Emoji Movie" in New Jersey.

The Howell Police Department said 43-year-old Abraham Parnes surrendered on Thursday after an anonymous tip following a surveillance image being published.

Police say the dual resident of Lakewood and New York was charged with lewdness and was released.

He didn't immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

Police say a woman had seen Parnes in the theater with his hands down his pants, which were unbuttoned and unzipped. The man was escorted out of the building and the woman later called police.

Debut novelist among winners of the American Book Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Debut novelist Yaa Gyasi and longtime author-activist Nancy Mercado are among this year's winners of American Book Awards for contributions to diversity in American literature.

Gyasi was cited Friday for her acclaimed "Homegoing." Mercado, a key member of the Nuyorican literary movement, was given a lifetime achievement prize. The awards are presented by the Before Columbus Foundation, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1976 by author-activist Ishmael Reed and dedicated to promoting multiculturalism.

Other winners Friday include such nonfiction authors as Flores A. Forbes for "Invisible Men" and Patrick Phillips for "Blood at the Root." Poet Solmaz Shariz was honored for her debut collection "Look" and Randa Jarrar for her story collection "Him, Me, Muhammad Ali."

Previous recipients of the awards include Toni Morrison, Louise Erdrich and Sherman Alexie.

Latest 'Game of Thrones' episode leaked online

NEW YORK (AP)—The upcoming episode of HBO's "Game of Thrones" has been leaked online but the network says it's not the result of a recent hack.

Media company Star India acknowledged Friday that it was the source of the leaked episode and said it is investigating how it happened.

The news comes just days after HBO said hackers had broken into its systems and stolen "proprietary information." HBO, however, said that Friday's leaked "Game of Thrones" episode was not a part of that hack.

Episode 4 of the show's seventh season is due to air Sunday.

Star India, a subsidiary of 21st Century Fox, reaches more than 700 million viewers a month across India and more than 100 other countries.

Cynthia Nixon emerges as possible NY gubernatorial candidate

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Cynthia Nixon's name is being mentioned as a possible candidate for governor in New York.

The Wall Street Journal was the first to report Friday that the "Sex & the City" actress has been approached by liberal groups encouraging her to mount a Democratic primary challenge against Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Nixon

Nixon is active in liberal politics in the state. She has not weighed in on her possible candidacy. A message left with her agent was not immediately returned Friday.

The director of the Alliance for Quality Education tells the Journal that Nixon has progressive credentials and her candidacy would excite voters.

Other names mentioned as possible challengers to Cuomo in the Democratic primary include former state Sen. Terry Gipson and Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner.

Hit song 'Despacito' becomes most viewed video on YouTube

AP

In this April 27, 2017 file photo, singers Luis Fonsi, left and Daddy Yankee perform during the Latin Billboard Awards in Coral Gables, Fla.

NEW YORK (AP) —The music video for the No. 1 hit song "Despacito" has a new record—it's become the most popular clip on YouTube of all-time with more than three billion views.

YouTube announced Friday that Luis Fonsi's ubiquitous song with Daddy Yankee has surpassed previous record holder "See You Again," the song by Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth from the "Furious 7" soundtrack.

"Despacito" became an international smash hit this year, topping the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The record-breaking video does not include the popular remix with Justin Bieber; that version has been viewed more than 464 million times.

"Despacito" is on track to become the first video to reach three billion views on YouTube. The video is also the most "liked" video on YouTube.

Man seems to be a friend only when he needs a hand

DEAR ABBY: My husband has been so-called friends with a man I'll call "Roy" for almost 30 years. During the 23 years I have been in the picture, I have noticed their friendship seems one-sided.

We hear from Roy only when he's down on his luck or needs help moving or lifting something. Last year he began dating someone new. He has had many girlfriends and we have not met a third of them. Since this courtship began, Roy has changed his number at least four times, and each time, my husband has had to call around to get his supposedly best friend's phone number.

Well, Roy proposed (for the first time ever) to this girlfriend. About a week later he texted my husband a photo of the ring with the caption: "She said yes, and you are the best man!" That was over a year ago. My husband still hasn't met the fiancee. But other friends of theirs have been invited on outings and met her during the year.

I feel Roy is using my husband because he knows he makes decent money and can come through to fund all the best man duties. I don't want my husband to keep playing the fool. Is this normal friend behavior?

PROTECTIVE IN MISSOURI

DEAR PROTECTIVE: No, it's not. Your husband's "best friend" appears to be a user. From where I sit, he is being treated more as a reliable resource than a friend, let alone a "best" friend. However, after 30 years, your spouse may be so accustomed to it that he doesn't know the difference. How sad.

DEAR ABBY: A year ago I met the untouchable Ice Prince Charming and somehow managed to snatch him up a few months ago. But now that he has "defrosted" and we're starting to settle into a relationship, I'm realizing that my "prince" is a bit too charming.

This may sound nuts, but I'm getting sick from all the sugary sweet affection all the time, and I can't get him to answer anything for himself. It's always, "It doesn't matter, as long as I'm with you. It doesn't matter, you're better/your opinion is better. You're so great, amazing, cute, etc. Love you, our kids will be so cute, I wanna marry you, etc." And nothing else. He won't even let me compliment him.

We used to have intellectual arguments, dumb competitions, talk all night about fun things we wanted to do one day or just sit around and snark at each other when we weren't going at our sometimes separate hobbies. I know all every girl wants is her boyfriend to be sweet, so why does it bother me? Am I crazy? How do I get my best friend back?

UNUSUAL JERSEY GIRL

DEAR JERSEY GIRL: Here's how. Tell him exactly what you have told me. He may be love drunk, but if that doesn't sober him up, then it may be time to find a prince who's less charming and better suited to you.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

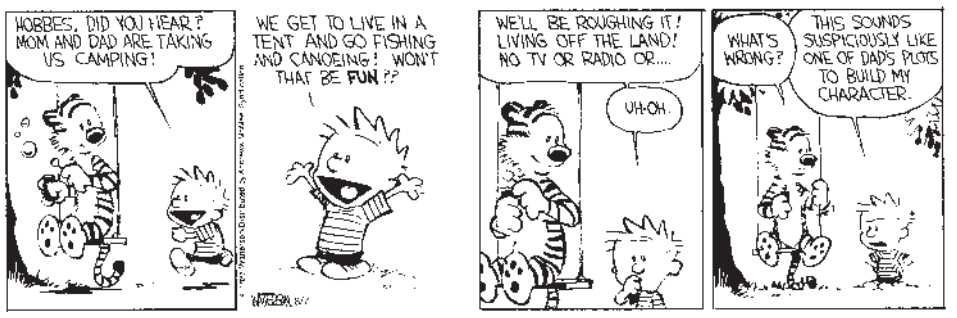
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOBBES, DID YOU HEAR? MOM AND DAD ARE TAKING US CAMPING!
WE GET TO LIVE IN A TENT AND GO FISHING AND CANOEING! WON'T THAT BE FUN??
WE'LL BE ROUGHING IT! LIVING OFF THE LAND! NO TV OR RADIO OR....
UH-OH.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE ONE OF DAD'S PLOTS TO BUILD MY CHARACTER.

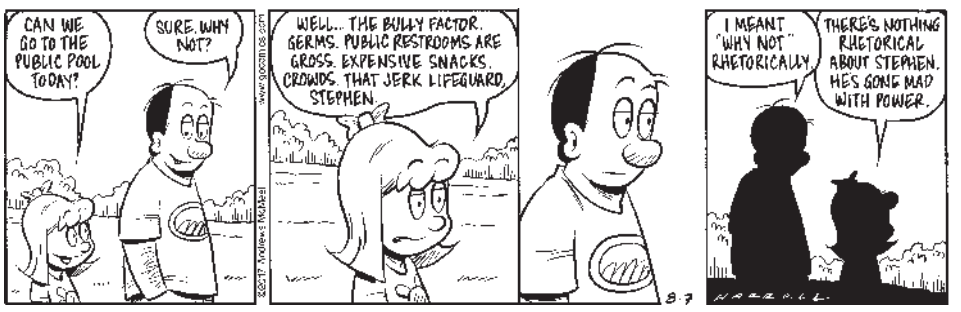
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE COULD TRAVEL BACK IN TIME?
I'D GO BACK TO MY FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN
THIS TIME I'D KNOW WHERE THE LITTLE BOYS' ROOM WAS BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE
I'D TRAVEL BACK BEFORE THIS CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CAN WE GO TO THE PUBLIC POOL TODAY?
SURE. WHY NOT?
WELL... THE BULLY FACTOR. GERMS. PUBLIC RESTROOMS ARE GROSS. EXPENSIVE SNACKS. CROWDS. THAT JERK LIFEGUARD, STEPHEN.
I MEANT "WHY NOT" RHETORICALLY.
THERE'S NOTHING RHETORICAL ABOUT STEPHEN. HE'S GONE MAD WITH POWER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

TAKING ANOTHER NAP? YOU SHOULD GET SOME EXERCISE!
WHY DON'T YOU GO FETCH A STICK OR SOMETHING?!
OKAY. WILL YOU THROW ONE FOR ME?
WHAT TIME DO YOU WANT ME TO WAKE YOU?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

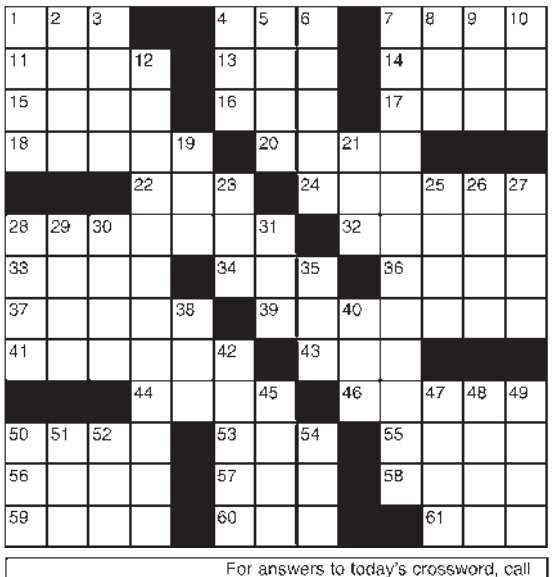
ACROSS
1 Sauté
4 Music booster
7 Tiny branch
11 Weaving frame
13 Neither mate
14 Bee's home
15 Pond growth
16 Duo
17 Take it easy
18 Bizarre
20 Zilch
22 Ballot markings
24 Cinco de Mayo party
28 Drool, like a hound
32 Despots
33 Eye drop
34 Sound of relief
36 Egyptian deity
37 Group character
39 Golfer's first stroke
41 Sulked
43 Witticism
44 Warmth
46 "Swell!"
50 Agree
53 Annoy
55 German river
56 Sharif of film
57 Old Oldsmobile
58 Thick chunk
59 Tiny amounts
60 "You bet!"
61 Insult, slangily

DOWN
1 Imperfection
2 Actor's quest
3 Boo-Boo's mentor
4 Busy insect
5 Cut, as a lawn
6 Evidence
7 Chekhov play of 1901
8 Golfer Michelle
9 Hosp. hookups
10 Retrieve
12 "Duck Soup" siblings
19 Society newbie
21 Petty peeve
23 Salt source
25 Obi
26 Small combo
27 Admin. aide
28 Dance move
29 Actor Jared
30 Diamond Head locale
31 Squealer
35 Skirt edge
38 Observe
40 Ages and ages
42 Milk seller
45 Sloth's home
47 "— Lang Syne"
48 Bangkok language
49 Spheres
50 Scribble (down)
51 "— Little Teapot"
52 Abysmal
54 Decks in the ring

Solution time: 28 mins.

S	O	A	P	S		E	P	A		A	B	S
C	O	N	A	N		S	O	S		L	E	T
	O	N		A		C	O	S	E	T	T	E
		E	L	I	J	A	H			N	O	I	E
A	N	T		I	A	P		F	D	S	F	I
F	E	T	E		N	E	U	R	O			
W	E	L	V	E		D	A	W	G			E
			O	C	I	A	D		S	I	A	M
R	E	A		S		Z	E	N		N	O	T
A	R	M	S		S		A	C	B	F		
P	I	P	E	T	T	E		T	E	T	R	A
	C	E		R	E	C		R	A	T	C	N
D	A	D		U	P	S		E	N	E	M	Y

Friday's answer 8 - 7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Trout, 26; Charlize Theron, 42; David Duchovny, 57; Wayne Knight, 62.

Happy Birthday: Look for opportunities that will bring about positive changes at work as well as with partnerships. Channel your emotional energy into activities that will put you on solid ground with people who can influence your future. Make plans to travel with people you love or to visit someone who inspires you to be and do your best. Your numbers are 6, 10, 24, 28, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Change can be good as long as you think matters through. Stay calm in situations that involve domestic or relationship issues and you will avoid emotional overreacting. Indulgent tendencies should be monitored closely. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your desire to help others is best kept in check. Someone will take advantage of you if you don't ask enough questions and consider your best options. If you make unrealistic promises you will end up having second thoughts. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Reconnecting with someone from your past will be tricky. Be wary of what's offered. Do your research before you make a commitment. Stay focused on your home, family and positive lifestyle changes. Short trips will be informative and entertaining. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look for a bargain, but don't buy something you don't need. Use your imagination and you'll come up with a plan that will help you turn your workspace into a functional creative environment that encourages productivity. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Physical challenges or participating in demonstrations that give you a platform to voice your opinions are favored. Start discussions that encompass expectations as well as contributions, and you'll find out where you stand. Passion and dedication will bring results. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Assess your current relationship with a friend, lover, child or parent. Make adjustments if you feel like you are being taken for granted or manipulated. Be upfront about your opinions and innovative with your proposed solutions. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Go where the action is. Get involved in projects that interest you. Network with people who can help you get ahead. Don't let personal matters interfere with your work or stop you from doing the things you want to do. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Sit tight if uncertainty sets in. Time is on your side, and reacting too quickly will only make matters worse. Dig deep and you'll discover secret information that will help you come to a conclusion. Anger is not a solution. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Lean in and do your part. Don't waste time on anyone who gives you the runaround. Be the one to implement positive changes and you will earn respect and gain popularity. Business trips look promising. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Learn as you go. Don't feel obligated to take a risk just because someone else does. You may desire change, but unless you have done your research, it is best to take a pass. Concentrate on personal relationships and contracts. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Dig in and make changes. Whether you are helping others or doing things for yourself, you will excel. Working in close proximity with someone you respect will make it easier to get things done. Personal gains and rewards are featured. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't be afraid to spend money on personal items for your home or to update your appearance. Let your creativity encourage you to try something new and innovative. The changes you make will help you attract interest and get ahead. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are exuberant, helpful and open-minded. You are innovative and an opportunist.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	8			9		5	
7				5			8	4
9			4					
		1	9	4				5
	7						6	
5				3	6	8		
					8			1
8	2			9				6
	5		2			7	4	

Difficulty Level ★ 8/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	6	9	3	8	2	7	1
2	3	1	7	5	4	6	8	9
8	9	7	6	2	1	5	4	3
1	4	9	5	8	6	3	2	7
3	2	8	1	7	9	4	6	5
7	6	5	2	4	3	1	9	8
6	8	4	3	1	7	9	5	2
5	7	3	4	9	2	8	1	6
9	1	2	8	6	5	7	3	4

Difficulty level ★★★★ 8/7

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FINDING THE BEST DEALS Solution: 7 letters

P	B	N	O	I	T	A	N	I	T	S	E	D	S	R
E	C	I	R	P	D	E	N	I	L	N	O	E	E	O
R	E	C	N	A	R	U	S	N	I	M	A	P	G	U
K	R	T	T	C	R	U	I	S	E	S	R	A	A	N
Ⓢ	U	E	U	A	H	T	R	S	O	E	E	R	K	D
Ⓓ	G	N	G	N	R	E	T	N	S	H	V	T	C	T
Ⓐ	S	N	R	A	I	I	A	E	A	T	I	U	A	R
S	H	M	I	U	C	M	N	P	L	O	E	R	P	I
G	C	N	A	V	T	T	T	T	E	L	W	E	A	P
N	R	A	E	T	A	E	T	S	I	C	S	T	S	O
I	A	I	N	T	C	S	R	E	A	C	T	A	R	I
T	E	T	I	M	E	H	O	T	E	L	K	R	U	N
A	S	V	S	N	O	I	S	R	U	C	X	E	O	T
R	E	W	A	R	D	S	E	L	E	V	A	R	T	S
A	R	R	I	V	A	L	R	C	O	U	P	O	N	S

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Last Friday's Answer: Celery

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Please email your resume and supporting documents to dc.bnc.technology.llc@gmail.com

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Dodgers hit 5 homers, deck Mets 7-4 to extend historic surge

AP

New York Mets right fielder Curtis Granderson makes a diving catch on a ball hit by Los Angeles Dodgers' Logan Forsythe (11) during the second inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Yasiel Puig hit a tie-breaking homer in the seventh inning and the thundering Los Angeles Dodgers went deep five times, rallying past the New York Mets 7-4 on Saturday to extend their incredible surge.

Chris Taylor, Justin Turner, Corey Seager and rookie Cody Bellinger also connected for the Dodgers, who are 43-7 since June 7. That's the best 50-game run by a big league team since the 1912 New York Giants compiled the same mark from May 14 to July 3.

Los Angeles has won all but one of its last 13 games, upping the top record in the majors to an astounding 78-32. That puts the Dodgers at 46 games above .500 for the first time since they were 98-51 on Sept. 15, 1962.

That team—led by Don Drysdale, Sandy Koufax and NL MVP Maury Wills—didn't even win the pennant after dropping a best-of-three playoff to rival San Francisco. This year's Dodgers are looking to end a World Series drought that dates to the franchise's last championship in 1988.

"It's a wave that we're riding," manager Dave Roberts said. "I know our players and they realize that we haven't done anything yet."

Leadoff man Michael Conforto, Wilmer Flores and Curtis Granderson homered in the first inning off Dodgers lefty Rich Hill, the NL pitcher of the month for July.

Mets starter Seth Lugo held Los Angeles hitless until the fifth, but it didn't last.

Taylor homered leading off the sixth, connecting in a third straight game for the first time in his career. One out later, Turner singled and Bellinger nearly went down to one knee to lift his 31st homer over the right-center fence, tying it at 3.

Puig hit his 21st of the season leading off the seventh against Paul Sewald (0-4), lining a laser shot to left for his second in two games. Turner sent a solo shot to center off Sewald in the eighth, and Seager added a two-run drive into the second deck in right field against Fernando Salas in the ninth.

The five home runs equaled a season high for Los Angeles. Brandon Morrow (4-0) pitched a hitless sixth for the win.

Rene Rivera homered in the bottom of the ninth for the Mets, who have lost six of seven.

New York has dropped eight straight to the Dodgers dating to last year. The Mets have given up 23 homers and been outscored 49-15 in losing all six meetings this season.

Cubs 7, Nationals 4

In Chicago, although it was supposed to be a day off for Willson Contreras, the Cubs regular catcher was in the lineup playing left field on Saturday.

As far as manager Joe Maddon is concerned, Contreras can rest when he's not red hot at the plate.

Contreras homered and drove in three runs, Alex Avila homered for his first hit with the Cubs and Chicago beat the Washington Nationals 7-4 to even the series between division leaders.

Contreras is batting .444 (8 for 18) with three homers and 11 RBIs in the five games of the current home stand and has reached base in 19 straight.

"I had to keep him in the lineup," Maddon said. "I mean, he's swinging the bat so well."

Kris Bryant and Jon Jay each added a run-scoring hit as the Cubs snapped a three-game losing streak.

Bryce Harper hit his 28th homer and threw out a runner at third base for the Nationals, but struck out in two key spots.

John Lackey (9-9) allowed three runs (two earned) and six hits in five innings to win his fourth straight start. Wade Davis got the final three outs—striking out Harper, the potential tying run, to end it—for his 23rd save.

"He's definitely tough in that situation," Harper said of Davis. "I had one pitch that I could drive and I hit it foul. I knew if I missed a pitch against him, it would be a tough at-bat."

Harper also struck out against Lackey in the fifth with a runner in scoring position.

Washington starter Edwin Jackson (2-2) allowed four runs and six hits in five innings. Harper's solo shot in the first gave the Nationals a quick lead, but the Cubs responded with four in the bottom of the inning. Bryant drove in the first run with a double and Contreras followed with an RBI single to score Bryant. After a single by Ben Zobrist—Contreras was thrown out by Harper trying to advance to third—Avila's two-run shot made it 4-1.

"It felt really good," said Avila, who was acquired on Monday to back up Contreras. "I glad to get it over with and out of the way."

Washington scored twice in the fourth to make it 4-3. Anthony Rendon had a sacrifice fly and Matt Wieters added an RBI single.

Contreras' two-run blast off Matt Grace in the sixth was for a 6-3 lead and Jay's RBI single in the seventh made it 7-3.

The Nationals added an unearned run in the eighth to cap the scoring.

Contreras believes the key to his hot streak is simply taking advantage of the pitches he can handle.

"That's what hitting is all about," he said. "Just being ready for your pitch, and if you get it, take advantage of it."

Yankees 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Brett Gardner and Ronald Torreyes made sensational defensive plays in the ninth inning to save Aroldis Chapman from another late-inning meltdown in Progressive Field as New York hung on to stop a four-game losing streak.

Chapman (4-2), making his first appearance in Cleveland since Game 7 of last year's World Series for the Chicago Cubs, allowed a leadoff single in the ninth before Jose Ramirez hit a fly to deep left that Gardner grabbed with a jump on the warning track. Edwin Encarnacion then hit a blooper toward right that Torreyes ran down with a dive.

Red Sox 4, White Sox 1

In Boston, Andrew Benintendi and Jackie Bradley Jr. hit two-run homers and Drew Pomeranz won a career-best fifth straight decision to help Boston beat Chicago.

Pomeranz (11-4) gave up Tim Anderson's homer on the second pitch of the game, but didn't allow another run before leaving with a 4-1 lead with one out in the seventh. Since starting the season 3-3, Pomeranz has lost just once in 15 starts.

Orioles 5, Tigers 2

In Baltimore, Welington Castillo hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning while Adam Jones and Tim Beckham also hit solo shots as Baltimore ended Detroit's four-game winning streak.

Jonathan Schoop doubled in a run for Baltimore to increase his RBI total to 80, tied for the AL lead.

Justin Upton homered in a third consecutive game for the Tigers, who were unbeaten in August after trading away three stars before the non-waiver trade deadline.

Brewers 3, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Zach Davies gave up one hit in seven innings as Milwaukee remained a half-game behind NL Central-leading Chicago after a victory over Tampa Bay.

It was the second straight shutout for the Brewers, who have given up only one run while winning three straight.

Blue Jays 4, Astros 3, 10 innings

In Houston, Ryan Goins hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the 10th inning as Toronto rallied to beat Houston.

Goins hit the two-out single to left field off Francisco Liriano (6-7), and Rob Refsnyder touched home plate with his left hand just before Brian McCann tagged him. The Astros challenged the call, which stood after a nearly two-minute review.

Rangers 4, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Cole Hamels threw the 16th complete game of his career — his first in nearly two years — and turned in his most efficient start of the season to lead Texas past Minnesota.

With Hamels dominating on the mound, Nomar Mazara's first-inning, two-run homer off Kyle Gibson (6-9) was all the offense Texas needed to beat the Twins.

Hamels (6-1) scattered four hits and allowed only four batters to reach base. The Twins' only run against him was unearned.

Padres 5, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, rookie Dinelson Lamet allowed just one hit in 5 2/3 innings while Wil Myers broke out of a slump with a home run and three RBIs as San Diego beat Pittsburgh.

Lamet (6-4) struck out five and walked three, giving up just a single to Josh Bell in the fourth to win his third consecutive start. He also picked up his first major league hit, a flare to right field off Gerrit Cole (9-8) in the sixth. Brad Hand worked a perfect ninth for his eighth save.

Dusty Coleman went 3 for 4 for the Padres, including his third homer, while Josh Harrison hit a solo home run in the seventh and Adam Frazier added an RBI single but couldn't stop the Pirates from falling 5 1/2 games behind first-place Chicago in the NL Central.

Braves 7, Marlins 2

In Atlanta, Mike Foltzynewicz had a career-high 11 strikeouts and Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer as Atlanta beat Miami.

Miami led 1-0 in the sixth when Giancarlo Stanton slugged his 36th homer, most in the majors. One night after homering twice, Stanton crushed Foltynewicz's fastball deep into the seats in the left field, but the Braves took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the inning on Freeman's RBI single and Nick Markakis' RBI double.

Freeman hit his 20th homer and Brandon Phillips had a two-run single in a five-run seventh.

Cardinals 4, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Paul DeJong hit a two-run homer and Lance Lynn got past Joey Votto's first-inning home run to win his fourth straight start as St. Louis eased past Cincinnati.

Lynn (10-6) retired 12 of the last 14 batters he faced, walking Votto twice. The right-hander limited the Reds to three hits and a run with three walks and four strikeouts.

Athletics 5, Angels 0

In Anaheim, California, rookie Paul Blackburn allowed five hits in 6 2/3 innings as Oakland cooled off Los Angeles.

The Angels had their four-game winning streak snapped after they had scored at least five runs in each of their previous seven games.

Blackburn (3-1) was in control all night and didn't walk a batter. The 2012 No. 1 draft pick of the Cubs struck out one.

Rockies 8, Phillies 5

In Denver, Jon Gray pitched seven innings of one-run ball while Pat Valaika homered as Colorado rode a big early lead to a victory over Philadelphia.

Gerardo Parra added three hits and two RBIs for the Rockies who won for the fourth time in five games.

Daniel Nava homered, tripled and singled to finish a double shy of the cycle for the Phillies, who fell to 0-5 on their eight-game road trip.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4, 10 innings

In San Francisco, Denard Span scored on Jarrett Parker's two-out infield single in the 10th inning, lifting San Francisco over Arizona.

Hunter Pence homered, Nick Hundley had three hits and Pablo Sandoval doubled in three at-bats to celebrate his return to the Giants.

As he so often did on the field, LT stole the show

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—As he so often did on the field, LaDainian Tomlinson stole the show.

With a powerful speech calling for "Team America" to be a place for inclusion and opportunity, the great running back of the San Diego Chargers was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday night.

The 2017 roster of entrants into the shrine was deeply impressive: fellow running back Terrell Davis; quarterback Kurt Warner; defensive end Jason Taylor; safety Kenny Easley; placekicker Morten Andersen; and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

All spoke eloquently, with bursts of humor and heartwarming stories. But Tomlinson's words resonated so strongly that he drew several standing ovations not only from the crowd of 13,400, but from his now-fellow Gold Jackets.

"Football is a microcosm of America," Tomlinson said. "All races, religions and creeds, living, playing, competing side by side. When you're part of a team, you understand your teammates - their strengths and weaknesses—and work together toward the same goal, to win a championship.

"Let's not choose to be against one another. Let's choose to be for one another. ... I pray we dedicate ourselves to being the best team we can be, working and living together, representing the highest ideals of mankind. Leading the way for all nations to follow."

Tomlinson and Taylor were elected in their first year of eligibility. Taylor's emotional speech during which he had to pause several times to compose himself was another highlight.

A third-round draft pick from Akron—just down the road from the Hall of Fame—Taylor's 139 1/2 career sacks helped him make the All-Decade Team of the 2000s. He also was the NFL's Man of the Year in 2007.

"I honestly can't believe I am here," said Taylor, who kissed the shaved head atop his bust when it was unveiled. "In 1992 I was at the University of Akron, just 20 miles away. It took 20 years to travel 20 miles to put on this jacket. It was worth every step."

The longest wait, 24 years, was by Easley, chosen for enshrinement by the seniors committee. The hard-hitting safety for the Seahawks and a member of the 1980s All-Decade Team played only seven seasons and 89 games. But what an impact he made as an intimidator and ballhawk.

The 1981 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year, Easley was the league's top overall defender in 1984 when he had a league-leading 10 interceptions, a career high.

"I thank you for welcoming me into your exclusive club," he said.

Andersen, the league's career scoring leader, joined Jan Stenerud as the only placekickers in Canton.

AP

Former NFL player LaDainian Tomlinson poses with a bust of himself during an induction ceremony at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, in Canton, Ohio.

A native of Denmark who knew nothing of American football when he came to this country as a teenager, Andersen played an incredible 25 pro seasons, a league record. A member of the NFL's 1980s and '90s All-Decade Teams, he played 382 total games, scored 2,544 points (565 field goals, 849 extra points) and is the all-time scoring leader for both New Orleans and Atlanta.

"Good evening, Canton, Ohio," he began. "Good morning Denmark.

"My story isn't only about my love for my country of Denmark and its people, but also my deep appreciation and respect for what I discovered here in the United States of America."

It took Warner years to get discovered by the NFL. By way of the Arena Football League, NFL Europe—and stocking shelves at a grocery store in between football jobs—Warner stepped in when Trent Green tore up his knee in a 1999 preseason game.

He went on to win two NFL MVP awards and one league title, reinvigorating moribund Rams and then Cardinals franchises along the way.

"People say Hollywood couldn't have written it any better," Warner noted. "After this, they don't have a chance."

Davis had a similar story. A sixth-round draft pick after a nondescript career at Long Beach State and Georgia, his mercurial NFL stay (seven years, five of them spectacular) had been something of a hindrance for entry into the hall. But he was the catalyst for the NFL titles Denver won in 1997 and '98 with another Hall of Famer, John Elway, at quarterback.

The 1996 and '98 Offensive Player of the Year, 1997 Super Bowl Most Valuable Player and '98 NFL MVP, Davis' meteoric stint came to an ugly end with a devastating knee injury in 1999. That in great part kept him out of the hall for more than a decade.

Now, he is in, having overcome migraines that plagued him since he was a teenager—and overcome the questions over the longevity of his NFL stint.

"The overwhelming feeling running through my body is gratitude," he said.

The current Cowboys showed their gratitude to Jones by sticking around the area after winning the Hall of Fame game on Thursday night. They were in the stadium for his induction, which Jones earned not only for winning three Super Bowls within six years of buying the team, but for being a power broker within the NFL.

Jones has been a key figure as the league grew to a multi-billion dollar business, having a hand in many important decisions, from TV contracts to sponsorships to labor issues.

"As someone who owned a team, I was always thinking how we could go to the next level," Jones said.

That next level for "America's Team" is a value of $4.2 billion, the most for any sports franchise.

"Buying the Dallas Cowboys frankly was that kind of risk, even exaggerated in my mind," Jones said of the 1989 purchase. "But I knew it was now or never. Football kicked in."

NFL BRIEFS

Brady says he wants to keep any past medical issues private

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady says he prefers to keep any medical issues in his past private, including whether he had a concussion last season. In his first comments since the Patriots opened training camp, the quarterback said Friday he "isn't blind" to issues such as CTE, but remains confident in how he tries to avoid injury. Brady's wife, supermodel Gisele Bundchen, told "CBS This Morning" in May that Brady played through a concussion on his way to a fifth Super Bowl title. The NFL said it reviewed all reports from independent neurotrauma consultants and trainers who worked at Brady's games during the 2016 season and found no records that indicated he had a head injury or showed concussion symptoms.

Colts boot 2 undrafted rookies from practice after scuffle

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Two Indianapolis Colts players were kicked out of practice after getting involved in a scuffle. Coach Chuck Pagano sent receiver Bug Howard and defensive back Dante' Blackmon to the locker room about 20 minutes before practice was scheduled to end on Friday. Both players are undrafted rookies. It wasn't clear what caused the problem. Howard grabbed Blackmon's face mask and the two went to the ground before teammates gathered around them. Pagano said he booted them out because they would have been ejected if the same thing happened during a game. It's the third shoving match the Colts have had this week. All three involved receivers and defensive backs.

With Ryan Tannehill hurt, Dolphins reach out to Jay Cutler

MIAMI (AP)—Miami Dolphins coach Adam Gase says he reached out to Jay Cutler, and the retired quarterback who is now working in television showed interest.

But Gase said Saturday he didn't think the Dolphins were close yet to signing a quarterback following the knee injury to Ryan Tannehill that could sideline him the entire season. Gase wants to determine Tannehill's status before bringing in someone else.

"I know I need somebody either way; it's just what role," Gase said. "I'd like to know exactly with Ryan first, to be honest with you, so that helps me make a decision what direction I want to go."

Cutler would likely compete with backup Matt Moore for the No. 1 job while Tannehill is out. But the question is how long the Dolphins will need a replacement as the starter.

Tannehill, who missed the final four games of last season with two sprained ligaments in his left knee, reinjured it a week into training camp Thursday. An MRI was inconclusive, and the Dolphins are consulting with specialists to determine whether surgery is necessary, which would likely shelve him for the season. He's expected to be out a minimum of six weeks.

AP

Miami Dolphins head coach Adam Gase, center, talks with members of the media after an NFL football training camp, Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, at the Dolphins training facility in Davie, Fla.

"We're waiting for a few more opinions to come in," Gase said. "We're in no rush."

Gase was the offensive coordinator for the Chicago Bears when Cutler had his career-best passer rating with them in 2015. Gase joined Miami the following year, and Cutler parted with Chicago in March after eight seasons.

In May, Cutler was hired by Fox as an analyst to work on its No. 2 NFL team. Following Tannehill's injury, Gase said he contacted Cutler, who reacted favorably to the idea of postponing retirement and joining the Dolphins.

"He was interested," Gase said. "I think he's just trying to figure out everything. You don't expect this to happen. So it was a surprise, and I think he has a lot of things to think through."

There are plenty of potential alternatives to signing Cutler, Gase said.

"We've had a lot of people call us," Gase said. "We've talked to a few people. We're keeping all options on the table."

The Dolphins are also adjusting to the loss of veteran newcomer Ted Larsen, who was a front-runner to start at guard until he injured his biceps this week. Gase said injury likely isn't season-ending, but Larsen will be missed because he stabilized the offensive line.

"We should have a chance to get him back," Gase said. "But it was disappointing, because he was probably our most consistent guy day in and day out."

Teen Ayuyus begins training camp in Korea

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team left Saipan for South Korea early yesterday morning for a five-day training camp.

The 20-player squad plus head coach Michiteru Mita and his assistants Jershwin Angeles and Jonathan Takano boarded a 3:10m flight to Busan where they were scheduled to arrive at 6:10am (7:10am Saipan time). From Busan, the group headed to Gyeongsangnam-do where the Changnyeong Sports Park is located. The sports facility is the venue of the Teen Ayuyus training camp.

The team had its first training session yesterday as it ran drills and plays for two hours before calling it a day to prepare for today's busy schedule. The Teen Ayuyus will have a morning training session today from 8:30am to 10am and a team meeting at 2pm before heading out to play in their first match in Korea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team players and their coaches pose for a photo at the departure area of the Saipan International Airport before boarding a plane bound for Busan, South Korea early yesterday morning.

The visiting squad is entered in the youth football festival and will have a total of four games against high-level youth teams from Korea and Japan. The Teen Ayuyus' first three matches (from Monday to Wednesday) are all scheduled from 4pm to 6pm and they will have training sessions in the morning before each game. Their last match will then be played from 9am to 10:30am and from Changnyeong, they will travel back to Busan for their late evening departure on Thursday.

Mita, before the team left Saipan, said that at the camp the Teen Ayuyus are pressed to improve on their team and individual plays, as the AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers is less than three months away. The squad is having the training camp in preparation for the qualifiers where the CNMI will be up against North Korea, Hong Kong, and Australia. The AFC tournament will run from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8.

Mita has cautioned his wards about the physicality of the games they will be playing in the festival, but said this is good for the Teen Ayuyus, as the same could be expected when the squad sees action in the AFC event, especially against North Korea.

The CNMI U18 Boys National Team is made up of Dai Podziewski, Alex Park, Clayron Izuka, Joshua Galarion, Anthony Fruit, James Ermitanio, Joshua De Leon, Carlson Cruzat, Jonathan Capayas, Louis Calayag, John Joseph Bucayo, Thaiphi Austria, Christopher Aninzo, Joshua Abragan, Eun Syu Hahn, Terrance Evan Thosert-Belcher, Sunjoon Tenorio, Mareko Tekopua, John Michael Rojas, and Ryan Relucio.

Billiards teams aim to play smart

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

There's still no clear winner for both the Thursday and Tuesday divisions in the Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Open 8-Ball leagues. As much as possible teams in the running for the top plums should play smart and error-free so they could earn the bragging rights as season champions.

There are only six weeks left in the Thursday League—including the scheduled Aug. 10 matches between the Tasha's Wild Bills and 9 Eleven MJD Warriors, the Chow Time 8-Black Ball and Blue Haus Homeboyz, Tasha's Extreme and 9 Eleven Jam Shooters, and Sands Team SCS and 9 Eleven Titans II.

The Black Ball remains on top of the standings with a 119-76 slate after completing an 8-5 win over the Extreme last Thursday night, while the MJD Warriors continue to shadow them at 115-80 despite escaping with a 7-6 decision against Team SCS.

The Titans II, currently in third at 111-84, dropped a close 7-6 game against the Jam Shooters, the current occupants of the cellar with a 71-124 slate. They are four games behind the Extreme's 75-120 card.

The Homeboyz defeated Wild Bill's, 8-5, to hike their record to 83-112 while relegating their opponents, who could still pull off a surprise and finish in the top three, to 106-89. Team SCS is in fifth at 100-95.

In the Tuesday League, the 9 Eleven Docomo Hustlers cruised to an easy 10-3 triumph over the cellar-dwelling Chow Time Assassins and improve to 114-81. Their opponents dropped to 72-123.

The Hustlers hope to further distance themselves as they face the Destroyers (106-89) tomorrow, while Tasha's Str8 Black Ball take on sister team Crazy 8 and the second-running 9 Eleven Titans clash with the Chow Time Assassins.

The Titans remain in second with a 110-85 after an 8-5 beating of the Crazy 8, while the Str8 Black Ball are staying close at 109-86 following a 9-4 win over the Destroyers.

Bodybuilders, swimmer earn NMSA honors

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Athletes from the CNMI Bodybuilding and Physique Federation and Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation earned the July athletes of the month honors in Thurday night's monthly meeting of the Northern Marianas Sports Association at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room.

Enrico Valdez and Ran Hee Yoo were named the Male and Female Athletes of the Month, while Sean Japor joined swimmer Ashley Dangol as the Male and Female Student Athletes.

Valdez ruled the Open Men's Physique competition in last month's 2nd CNMI Bodybuilding and Physique Championships. He defeated mixed martial artist Kelvin Fitial and Zhang Wei for the title.

It was Valdez's third straight crown after clinching the 3rd Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding and Physique Competition in March this year. He also bested six other participants to win the overall crown in the 2016 Dee Clayton Classic in October 2016.

Yoo placed second in the Masters Women's Physique but the 65-year-old was the crowd favorite. It was her first time to compete and stand in front of an audience to show off her physique.

She was born two years after the Korean War, has two grown children—a girl and a boy—five grandkids, and four step great grandkids.

Japor won the Junior Men's Physique title.

Dangol had a record-breaking performance in July with the 11-year-old resetting the 100-meter and 200m butterfly. She posted a time of 1:13.19 in the 100m, while 2:45.00 in the 200m for a new CNMI record in the 11-12 age group.

SAPONG

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still going to work hard for her to further improve with her time."

"Our ultimate goal is to break the 13- and 12-second marks in the Micro Games and MAC. There's room for her to improve. I love her work ethic, her commitment to train and improve her time."

Sapong is also the reigning 200m run champion in the MAC with a games record of 27.87 seconds while anchoring the CNMI women's 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams to bronze medals in the 2016 edition at Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia.

She also posted a 13.64-second time in the 100m sprint in this year's Oceania Area Championship in Fiji and 28.47 in the 200m run, improve her previous times of 13.91 and 28.97 seconds in the 2015 Oceania Championships in Cairns, Australia.

European juniors champion Gina Lückenkemper of Germany surprised everyone by being the top qualifier with her own PBT of 10.95 seconds, joining favorites Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands (11.08), the United States' Tori Bowie (11.05), and 2016 Rio Olympics gold medalist Elaine Thompson of Jamaica (11.05).

4GIVES

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over NMI U16. Saipan Elite marched into last weekend's title game following a similar easy victory against HK SSS in the other semis tiff, 8-2.

F. Marinos takes girls U17 title

F. Marinos avoided the upset axe of Marianas Health Armada after grinding out a 2-1 win in their girls U17 division championship game.

Bernadette Horey and Lyka Sally scored the two goals for F. Marinos off Guine Borja's feeds. Horey made it to the board first in the second half, while Sally drilled the go-ahead. Britanni Wally logged the lone goal for Marianas Health Armada, which forced the title showdown against F. Marinos after stunning the top-ranked Hakone FC in the semis, 2-1.

With the finals win, F. Marinos capped the tournament on a seven-game winning run. It dropped its opener to F. Hakone before sweeping its next five games in the preliminaries and the two matches in the playoffs. The streaking F. Marinos also had Grace Choi, Carla Ballesteros, Julianne Hall, Ruschell Valino, and Maurizon Tybaco as members.

Kanoa FC 2 gets co-ed U12 crown

Kanoa Football Club 2 clinched the first title at stake in the futsal tournament after shutting down SSS in the finals, 4-0.

Markus Toves, John Mark Anastacio, and Andrew Sablan scored for Kanoa FC, which was credited with an goal in the second half. Devin Propst, Pia and Nolan Ngewaki, Ruben Guerrero, Jared Terlaje, Jeremy Quimzon, and Ronian Laxamana are the other members of the champion team.

Kanoa FC 2, which bowed to SSS in their first meeting (3-8) before winning in their second duel (5-4) in the elimination, was awarded the perpetual trophy while its players received medals. F. Marinos and 4Gives FC also got trophies and medals.

CAROL

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website as deadline for registration was set yesterday at 6pm (Fiji time).

The Oceania Closed is B2 tournament and the fourth highest in the ITF Juniors Circuit as far as the number of rankings points awarded is concerned. The highest is Grade A (Grand Slam events), which offers 250 points to the singles champions, and is followed by Grade 1 (150), and B1 (180). B3 gives 80 points to the singles winner, while Grades 2 to 5 events award 100, 60, 40, and 30, respectively.

Tomorrow's competition will be Lee's second highest this season after she competed in the Grade 1 Mediterranée Avenir in Morocco last May. In her return appearance to the Oceania Closed Junior Championships, the world ranked No. 240 Lee hopes for a better results after making an early exit in the Round of 16 of both the singles and doubles events last year.

Besides Lee, the unseeded Isabel Heras and Robbie will represent the Commonwealth in the B2 tournament. Completing the roster of Pacific Oceania players entered in this high-level competition are Solomon Islands' Georjemah Row, Junior Benjamin, Graham Mani, and Vinda Teally, Fiji's Vienna Kumar and Ruby Coffin, American Samoa's Larry Magasin, Samoa's Eleanor Schuster, Tahiti's Naia Guitton and Jeremy Guines, Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy, and Guam's Mason Caldwell.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	62	49	.559	—
New York	58	51	.532	3
Tampa Bay	57	55	.509	5½
Baltimore	54	56	.491	7½
Toronto	52	58	.473	9½

Central Division

Cleveland	59	49	.546	—
Kansas City	56	52	.519	3
Minnesota	52	56	.481	7
Detroit	51	58	.468	8½
Chicago	41	67	.380	18

West Division

Houston	70	40	.636	—
Seattle	56	55	.505	14½
Los Angeles	55	56	.495	15½
Texas	53	57	.482	17
Oakland	49	62	.441	21½

NATIONAK LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	64	44	.593	—
Miami	51	57	.472	13
Atlanta	51	58	.468	13½
New York	49	59	.454	15
Philadelphia	39	69	.361	25

Central Division

Chicago	58	51	.532	—
Milwaukee	59	53	.527	½
St. Louis	54	56	.491	4½
Pittsburgh	53	57	.482	5½
Cincinnati	45	65	.409	13½

West Division

Los Angeles	78	32	.709	—
Colorado	64	47	.577	14½
Arizona	63	47	.573	15
San Diego	49	60	.450	28½
San Francisco	43	69	.384	36

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rugby Sevens Team Preps Up for 2017 Mini Games

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI Rugby Team coach Viliame Kaitabu, right, watches his players run a play during a training session at the CPA Airport Field last week. The squad is preparing for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games that will be held in Vanuatu this December.

A player catches a pass from Viliame Kaitabu, down, while other players watch the play.

Kelvin Fitial, left, tries to get up after making a pass to a teammate.

Two defenders are closing in on the player with the ball.

Two players lift Kevin Fitial, who is waiting for a throw from Stanley Iakopo, right.

A player runs with the ball, while being chased by two defenders.

Players jog around the field to warm up for their training session.

Northern Marianas Rugy Union president Stanley Iakopo, second left, and his fellow players listen to the instructions of coach Viliame Kaitabu.

Dodgers hit 5 homers, deck Mets 7-4 to extend historic surge

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

As he so often did on the field, LT stole the show

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Sapong sets new PBT in 100m

By JON PEREZ
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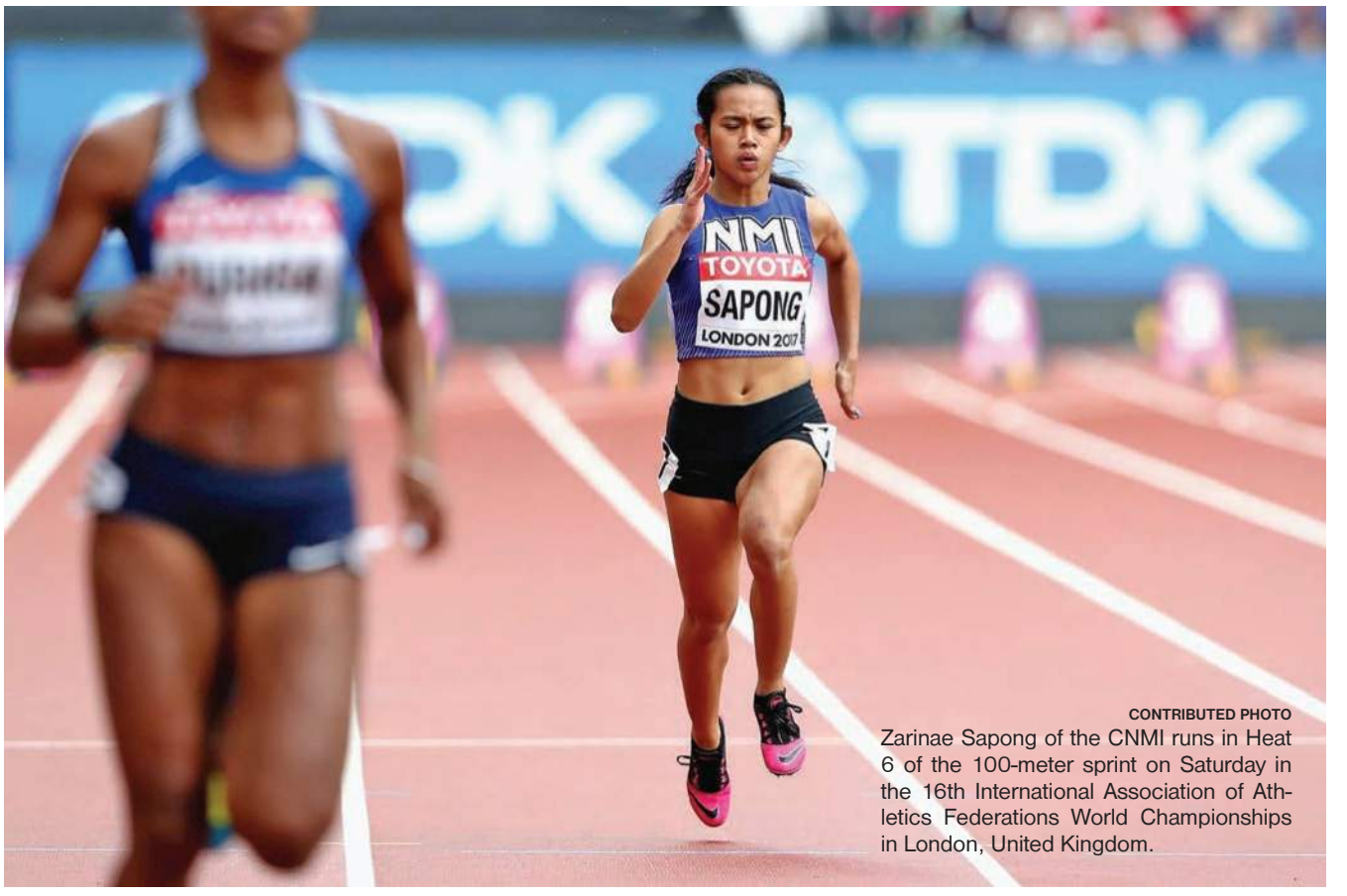
REPORTER

Zarinae Sapong accomplished her goal in setting a new personal best time in the 100-meter sprint on Saturday in the 16th International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in London, United Kingdom.

The 19-year-old, running in Heat 6 at the London Olympic Stadium at Marshgate Lane, clocked 13.29 seconds to shave off 0.06 milliseconds off the 13.35 time in her gold-medal winning performance in the 2016 Micronesian Athletics Championships in Pohnpei.

She finished eighth and despite failing to qualify, Northern Marianas Athletics development officer Elias Rangamar still welcomed Sapong's new PBT. Only the first three sprinters and the next six fastest in each heat advanced to the semifinals.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Zarinae Sapong of the CNMI runs in Heat 6 of the 100-meter sprint on Saturday in the 16th International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in London, United Kingdom.

"That was our own goal, for Zari to set a new PBT. We know that we're still years behind the world's best, since athletics is still in its infancy in the CNMI. We're really happy for this achievement," Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview yesterday.

"We did some tweaks with her technique a few days before she left and that thing worked. This is a huge confidence booster to her since we're using the Worlds to prepare for next year's MAC on Saipan and the Micro Games in Yap State."

Rangamar added that Sapong's performance in London makes her the favorite in defending her MAC 100m gold and to win the same event in the Micro Games. "We're

See SAPONG on Page 26

Carol seeded in Junior ITF tourney in Fiji

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee is seeded No. 4 in the girls singles event of the 2017 Oceania Closed Junior Championships that will start today at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is among the three Pacific Oceania players who are seeded in the girls singles event of the 2017 Oceania Closed Junior Championships that will kick off today at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

Lee is seeded fourth in the tournament that is part of the ITF Juniors Circuit. Siblings Violet and Patricia Apisah of Papua New Guinea are the other seeded players (No. 1 and 5) from Pacific Oceania. Australia's Lisa Mays and Olivia Gadecki are seeded No. 2 and 3, respectively, while Amber Marshall, also of Australia, and New Zealand's Valentina Ivanov and Oleksandra Kalachova complete the Top 8 seeding.

The seeded players will be paired against lower-ranked entries in the first round. The women's singles draw has yet to be posted on the event's

See CAROL on Page 26

4Gives FC tops Saipan Elite

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

4Gives FC was on target early to cruise to an 8-4 victory against Saipan Elite in their title match in the boys U16 division of the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Edwin Kim and Ronnel Ocanada fired up 4Gives FC's offense in the first 20 minutes of the championship game to prevail in the winner-take-all finale and rule the four-team division. Kim scored four goals, while Ocanada chipped in three, giving 4Gives FC a 7-3 halftime lead.

Rohan Basnet, Jeremiah Diaz, and Rintaro Miyawaki drilled in a goal apiece for Saipan Elite in the first half and the squad failed to mount a comeback in the second and overhaul the deficit, as only Jaydee Jose hit the board in the final 20 minutes of the title match. 4Gives FC also tallied an own goal in the second for its 8-3 advantage before Jose found his mark late in the game. Saipan Elite, on the other hand, had several chances to score more in the second half, but Kim held his ground when he took the goalkeeping job for 4Gives FC in the final frame. Andrew Omelau then replaced Kim and made a couple of saves before allowing Jose to give Saipan Elite its fourth goal.

Joining Kim, Omelau, and Ocanada on the champion team were Jether Yobech, Kirro Batino, Royce Angelo Ben, Nolan Gatharngel, and David Mafnas. 4Gives finished second behind Saipan Elite in the preliminary round of the tournament and moved to the finals after a 10-6 triumph

See 4GIVES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
4Gives FC's Andruw Omelau, left, dribbles past Saipan Elite's Merrick Toves during the second half of their boys U16 division title game in the Saipan Soccer School's 2017 Youth Summer Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.